

Ningbo Secures Permanent Host for International Early Childhood Education Conference

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“Man on earth, Good at birth. The same nature, Varies on nurture.” In commemoration of the ancient scholar and educator Wang Yinglin’s 800th birthday, the inaugural International Early Childhood Education Conference was held in his hometown Ningbo City, Zhejiang Province on December 27th, 2023. During the event, dozens of children charmingly recited *San Zi Jing*—the timeless classic also known as the *Three Character Classic*—to deliver Wang’s words of wisdom. What’s more, this port city in east China was officially designated as the permanent venue for this conference.

“人之初，性本善，性相近，习相远……”去年12月27日，经典吟诵之声又一次在甬城大地上响起，伴随着数十位孩童对《三字经》的童真演绎，纪念王应麟诞辰800周年暨首届国际蒙学大会在宁波举行。值得一提的是，会上正式确定在宁波建立国际蒙学大会永久会址。

Professionals, scholars, and enthusiasts convened from various corners of the globe at the conference, joining forces to explore the past, present, and future of early childhood education (ECE). Wang Yinglin (1223-1296), a prominent figure in China’s ECE development, has wielded his insightful words to resonate widely both within and beyond national borders.

会上，来自各地的蒙学专家、学者和爱好者齐聚一堂，共同探讨蒙学教育的历史、现状与未来。王应麟作为中国蒙学教育的杰出代表，其诞辰800周年更是引起了广泛关注。

Wang, a prominent philosopher and educator from the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), was a native of Ningbo. Eight centuries ago, he was born to the east of Moon Lake, which is a renowned landmark in Ningbo and affectionately referred to by locals as “Ningbo’s West Lake”. Following his academic pursuits, government service, and subsequent resignation, this loyalist scholar in the 13th century returned to his hometown, dedicating himself to scholarly writings and



Children reciting *Three Character Classic*.



The inaugural International Early Childhood Education Conference was held in Ningbo.

contributing to education. Wang authored seven ECE textbooks, including works such as *Xiaoxue Ganzhu*, *Xiaoxue Fengyong*, *Mengxun*, and *Xingshi Jijiupian*. Notably, *Three Character Classic* has emerged as the most widely propagated and influential primer in children’s education over the centuries. It is hailed as the “Crown of Childhood Education” and holds the esteemed designation of a global educational material by UNESCO.

南宋著名学者、教育家王应麟是地道的宁波人，800年前，他就出生在月湖的东边。历经求学、入仕和辞官后，王应麟回乡潜心著述并投身教育事业。他编过7部蒙学教科书，有《小学紺珠》《小学咏》《蒙训》《姓氏急就篇》等，尤其是所撰《三字经》，成为数百年来流传最广、影响最大的蒙学读物，被誉为“蒙学之冠”，被联合国教科文组织定为世界性的启蒙教材。

The conference announced its publication plans for international early childhood education research and held a book donation ceremony by China Guanghua Science and Technology Foundation to the libraries of Haishu District and Yinzhou District. It also bestowed plaques designating the Yinglin Academy in Yinzhou district, Ningbo Moon Lake Culture Research Institute, and Shanxia Academy in Cixi as traditional culture research and study bases for adolescents. Additionally, the conference unveiled the digital collection “Wang Yinglin: Confucian Scholar of the Song Dynasty”.

大会现场公布了国际蒙学研究成果出版计划，举行了中国光华科技基金会向海曙区图书馆、鄞州区图书馆两家单位捐书仪式，向鄞州区应麟书院、宁波月湖文化研究院和慈溪市山下书院授牌为青少年传统文化研学基地，并

布了《宋·大儒·王应麟》文化数字藏品。

Several esteemed scholars delivered keynote speeches on Wang Yinglin’s unique contributions to early childhood education, exploring the educational philosophy within the *Three Character Classic*, and analyzing the work from the perspective of performance theory. Liu Yuejin, a member of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and former director of the Institute of Literature, remarked that Ningbo has long been a rich source of culture, with Wang Yinglin and other scholars from the region creating long-lived cultural wealth.

主题演讲环节，多位学界名家就“王应麟的独特贡献”“《三字经》中的童蒙教育观念与方法解析”“表演理论视域下的《三字经》”等主题开展观点论述。中国社会科学院学部委员、原文学研究所所长刘跃进说，宁波自古以来就是文化富矿，浙东地区文化名人辈出，以王应麟为代表的宁波学者更是创造出了影响千年的文化财富。

In the afternoon, four parallel seminars were held, focusing on Wang’s academic thoughts, the cultural development of ECE, Chinese-style modernization of ECE practices, and the development of the ECE industry. Experts and professionals from local and national institutions – specializing in Song history, Confucian studies, education, and cultural industries – engaged in these interdisciplinary academic dialogues.

当天下午还举行了王应麟学术思想研讨会、蒙学文化发展学术研讨会、中国式现代化蒙学实践学术研讨会、中华蒙学产业学术研讨会等4场分会场活动，来自国内和宁波本地的宋史、儒学、教育界及文化产业的专家、业内人士围绕不同主题开展学术研讨。

Journalist: Pan Miao
Correspondent: Hu Chunbo
Translator: Pan Wenjie
Proofreaders: Zhang Dongjing,
Fan Naxi, Jason Mowbray

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职场招聘 声明公告 房屋租售 搬家搬厂 海曙区: 碶闸街62号(都市仁和中心) 20楼2011室
旧货回收 教育信息 商务信息 法律服务 鄞州区: 宁东路901号一楼广告中心

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联系人: 宁波中允公司 章老师
联系电话: 18067283919