Shanghai, the largest economic center and an open port in China, enjoys the most developed education system. Since the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, particularly during the past 25 years of reforms and opening up to the outside world, education has undergone rapid development in Shanghai. At present, Shanghai has established a complete education system, ranging from pre-school, elementary, vocational and high education to adult education programs.

Now, the education standard of the city has been improved notably with the administration of various educational institutions strengthened and optimized as well as the allocation of the institutions and curriculum setting becoming more rational. The education reform of the past few years has effectively promoted social investment in school at multi-levels. Various forms of school operation have emerged with the public schools the collective-or private-run schools growing fast hand in hand. These non-governmental schools enjoy their own advantages in financing, management and teaching system. Rapid development of education has greatly contributed to the city’s economic and social progress. In 21st century, Shanghai will continue to invest in education to make it live up to the city’s status as a world-class metropolis.
Shanghai Municipal Education Commission is the local education authority. It has eighteen different sections, in charge of the all kinds of education affairs, ranging from pre-school, elementary, vocational, adult to higher education. (See diagram one)

The municipal, district (country), and town government, each of them has their own specific responsibilities, 19 education bureaus of district level in charge of the educational institutions ranging from early education to local higher education institutions. Shanghai Education Commission and The Bureau of Labor & Social Security bear the joint responsibility of Professional training

I. Basic Facts of Elementary Education

Shanghai is one of the most developed areas in elementary education of the country. There are quite a number of prestigious schools enjoying a long history, an excellent faculty of respectable, erudite and competent teachers. They have contributed to the society a galaxy of talents. Shanghai is the first to implement and popularize nine-year compulsory education. The Local Regulation of Compulsory Education Implementation in Shanghai, in line with the National Law of Compulsory Education of PRC, protects the rights of every child for nine-year compulsory education. The elementary education in Shanghai is administered by governments at different levels. All the districts have integrated elementary education with local economic and social development planning. The enrollment rate of school-age children in Shanghai has met the standards set by the government. Under the national educational policy, Shanghai puts great emphasis on the teaching quality and all-round development of students in terms of morals, intelligence, and physical
health. The purpose is to lay a good foundation for students’ future development and to produce a new generation of Chinese citizens who have high ideals and morals, good education and discipline to carry on the country’s socialist construction.

Shanghai now has 844 middle schools and 686 primary schools (both full-time) with total number of 1.403 million students (See diagram three). The elementary education has 3 phases, 2 styles, one is 5 years for primary school, 4 years for junior high school and 3 years for senior high school; the other is 6 year for primary school, 3 year for junior school and 3 years for senior high school. Some schools cover and offer all nine years compulsory education from primary school to junior school.

The government provides guidance and supervision to encourages non-public schools run by enterprises or individuals. Currently, there are 227 non-public primary and junior high schools. Among them there are 40 primary schools and 187 are junior schools, accounting for 14.8% of the total number of the schools. The student number amounts to 192.600, 13.7% of total number of the city.

II. The Key Projects for the Elementary Education of Shanghai

[Projects up to the standard]

Since 1999, Shanghai has carried on the “Construction project for the modernization of primary and middle schools”, abbreviated as “Projects up to the standard” with a view to raising the level of the elementary education as a whole. With the building of the hardware of schoolhouses as the “handle”, this
Project has been initiated by the normalization and adjustment of the layout of schools and will reach the standard by means of capital construction and transformation such as removal, reconstruction and expansion, and non-capital construction measures such as the reduction of classes and students, adjustment of usage, demolition of walls and amalgamation of schools. At the same time, “Projects up to the standard” will improve the educational quality, making every child of school age enjoy the compulsory education well and fully, by heightening the qualification standard of the teacher ranks and enhancing the management of the schools. After three years’ efforts, this educational project winning great popularity has completed in the main. Among the 1487 schools included in the “Project up to the standard”, more than two thirds of the total primary and secondary schools of the entire city, 744 schools have been removed, 407 schools have reached the standard after transformation of capital construction, 336 schools have been up to the standard after transformation of non-capital construction. For this project, Shanghai had invested capital over RMB 2 billion and made a requisition of land for 1.5 million square meters. As a result, the schoolhouse area has been expanded by more than 1 million square meters.

[“Schools-interconnected” Project]

Shanghai has proposed that the elementary education should make a leap forward in development by modernizing the education with the information processing. By the end of 2002 the primary and secondary schools in Shanghai have already accomplished “schools-interconnected” on the whole; and is
increasing the allocation standard year by year. In 2002 each primary or middle school will be equipped with an electronic reading room connected with the Internet. In 2005 the ratio of students to the computers will be 15 : 1 in the primary schools, 10 : 1 in the junior high schools and 8 : 1 in the senior high schools.

Simultaneously, “management-interconnected”, resources-interconnected” and “teaching & studying-interconnected” will be realized preliminarily, the electronic management of the school roll for the primary and secondary schools will be improved and perfected, and the network job of enrollment will be spread in the junior and senior middle schools with each passing year.

[Curriculum Reform phase two]

Since 1998 Shanghai has started the second phase of curriculum reform in primary and secondary schools officially. Shanghai organized personalities of various circles to draw up the curriculum scheme, the curriculum standard for 20 disciplines and the governing outlines of science, society and art, the three fields for learning of the primary and secondary schools and 24 versions in all; and to compile for the primary and middle schools some new teaching materials of 191 kinds covering 18 disciplines and 29 editions for primary and middle school education as well as 9 kinds of teaching materials for kindergarten education. From the fall of 2002 the initiative classes of the 179 selected schools as the study bases for curriculum reform, including primary (kindergarten), junior and senior middle schools have started the experiment of the curriculum reform, the recommended new teaching materials of 135 kinds covering 17 disciplines and 28 editions for the primary and middle schools as well as the 9 kinds of teaching materials for kindergarten education will be put into trial simultaneously. After trial, improvement and perfection of the “galley proof”,
these new teaching materials will make their entry into all the primary and secondary schools of the city.

[Bilingual Education]

Facing the challenge of the new century and the functional position of an international metropolis, the educational development of Shanghai has set a definite aim that the students of Shanghai will gain great edges over the others in the ability of mastering the foreign languages and information technology so as to embody the opening and internationalization of education. For the reform of English language teaching in Shanghai, the main attention will go to training the communication capacity in foreign languages of the students. The graduates of the senior high schools are asked to pass the English test in the main. From 2002 the English programs will be run in the first grade of the primary schools gradually so as to improve the English reading capability of the students. By the acquisitions of learning and practicing in and outside class, the vocabulary will be around 5,000 for the graduates of senior high schools and 6,000 for the excellent ones, 3,000 for the graduates of junior high schools and at least 1,000 for the graduates of the primary schools. Meanwhile, the experiment of the bilingual education will be carried on step by step and 100 experimental bilingual teaching schools will be set up. While enhancing the English teaching and studying and the experiment of bilingual education, Shanghai will seek for the educational experiment for other teaching.

[Education in small-scale classes]

“Education in small-scale classes” is the effective way to bring the advantage of first-rate education into full play and raise the quality of the students. At present, the number of selected primary schools under experiment of “education in small-scale classes” has been added up to 44 at the city level and mounted to
around one hundred at the district level. Also the way of “education in small-scale classes” has been popularized in more than 300 primary schools in some areas. So far, the number of the primary schools selected as the experimental units for the “education in small-scale classes” accounts for 39.6% of the total primary schools of the city. The year 2003 witnessed the growth in popularity of “education in small-scale classes”, with 34 middle schools engaged in research of this field at present.

[The construction projects for the quality education]

Focusing on the quality education, Shanghai has accelerated the construction of bases for educational activities in order to create good social circumstances for rearing the people. By the Dianshanhu Lake in Qingpu County, the largest campsite for outside school activities of our country at present, The Orient Green Boat” has been completed. It occupies 5,600 mu of land (including the water area) and consists of the following eight big sections: Section of Knowledge Avenue, Section of Courage & Wisdom, Section of National Defense Education, Section of Subsistence Challenge, Section of Scientific Exploration, Section of Aquatic Sports, Section of Sports Drilling and Section of Life Practice. Among them the Section of Knowledge Avenue, composed by 162 statues of celebrities in the history of world civilization development, is one of the largest statue parks in the world to date.
[The construction project of modernized boarding senior high schools]

Shanghai embarked on its plan for the construction project of modernized boarding senior high schools at the end of 1996 and the whole project was completed in 2000. According to statistics, the newly built 11 boarding senior high schools, with a total campus area of 1,700 mu and a total building area of schoolhouse for 530,000 square meters, will be able to accommodate 20,000 students in 400 classes. The completion of the construction project has enlarged the scale of the general senior high schools and satisfied the peak demand of entrance into the senior high schools in time as well as provided the youngsters of Shanghai with excellent education of general senior high schools.

[Education Institutions for Expatriates in Shanghai]

With the increasing number of representative offices overseas and joint-venture enterprises in Shanghai, the number of expatriate families in city is on the rise as well. In order to improve the investment environment, the city started setting up schools for expatriate children in 1989. By 2000, 25 schools for expatriate children were set up and enrolled 4900 students. An education system catering to expatriate children has taken shape in the city. With China’s accession into the WTO, we can forecast in confidence that more and more foreigners will choose to settle down in Shanghai. According to the increasing trend and the distribution of the overseas, cooperated with the section of Shanghai Public Security Bureau, Shanghai Municipal Education
Commission has provided many privileges to exam and approve the expatriate schools and built a completely educational service system for expatriates successfully.

III. Supervision and Comments on Education in Shanghai

[Change and Development of Education Supervision]

- In September 1986, the general office of the State Council decided to establish the China Elementary Education Supervision (visualized guidance) System.
- In September 1987, the Office of Education Supervision was founded in Shanghai Education Bureau.
- In July 1989, Shanghai Municipal Government decided to set up the Education Supervision Office of Shanghai Municipal Government. Each district and county thus formed their own Education Supervision Offices.

At the present, the city employs 165 full-time education supervisors, and 428 part-time supervisors ranging from personnel in charge of related governmental offices, specialists of educational and scientific research organizations, to experienced elementary and secondary school principals. In order to encourage a variety of participation and social surveillance, some 80 special education supervisors from all walks of life were engaged

[The Function of Education Supervision]

The education supervision institutions founded at City/District (County) levels supervise, inspect, evaluate and guide the organization and implementation of
compulsory education of the subordinate municipal governments, educational administration departments and schools, as well as the cooperation and implementation of the relevant governmental branches in compulsory education, so as to ensure the implementation of the relevant national and local laws and policies concerning compulsory education, and to pave way for its realization.

According to the national education administration system, supervision of two levels were established, namely, city level and district level.

[The Missions and Forms of Education Supervision]

The main tasks for the education supervision organizations consist in two domains—“school administration” and “educational inspection”

The major forms of education supervision are overall supervision, specialized supervision, research-oriented supervision and random visit.

Overall supervision: The overall and systematical supervision, examination, evaluation and guidance of a variety of work on educational issue of a certain district/county government or an educational institutions.

Specialist supervision: Supervision, examination, evaluation and guidance of single of partial educational engagement of relevant districts/counties or schools targeting certain contents and objects upon the actual needs.

Research-oriented supervision: Supervision on the purpose of investigation and research with regard to special topics upon the actual needs and relevant demands.

Un-regularly visit: Process check with due plan and purpose at the beginning and in the end of the supervision.

[Comments on Supervision on The Basis of Development]
Idea: With modern educational development as its guidance, the comment of education supervision on the basis of development aims to prompt the development with process of development as its main content.

Goal: “Education Supervision on the Basis of Development” emphasizes schools’ voluntary self-running and the power and responsibility of educational bodies for their initiative development, which focuses on prompting school’s establishment of the inner system of voluntary and initiative development step by step.

The situation of implementation: Currently there are 6 (Huangpu district, Jing’an district, Changning district, Minhang district, Songjiang district and Yangpu district) experimental districts and 16 experimental schools in Shanghai. Other primary secondary schools also made out plans; so a trend of initiative development has prevailed.

[Feature of Education Supervision]

Education supervision has set supervision, examination, evaluation and guidance as its working principles. It has also formed their working specials: school administration inspection as main body, educational inspection as basic principle, supervising in accordance with the law. It insists in providing service and prompting educational reform, and improving specification and efficiency of education supervision.

IV. The Tactic for Developing Basic Education in Shanghai

[Main Objective]
To establish with effort up-to-date educational ideas, modern educational facilities, quality educational level and a system that develops students’ overall ability keeping up with the economic and social development in Shanghai.

[Major Aim]

----By the year 2010, Shanghai will have formed and perfected an integral scientific pre-school education system of children from 0-6 years of age, and have improved the level of early children education as well as taping children’s potential. Thus all children of Shanghai residents will enjoy first-class education.

The nine-year compulsory education is a must to every child of the right age, and also a lawful duty born by all governments and families. High-level and high-quality nine-year compulsory education will be carried on in Shanghai.

----By 2020, high-school education will be added into compulsory education system. The overall advantage of the society and economy of Shanghai will be made full use. Students’ spirits of innovation and the practical ability will furthermore be trained.

Elementary education should act in accordance with the trend of the society’s economic information and net development, improving the level of educational information and its radiate ability. Using modern educational techniques to improve the overall quality, subsequent to 12 years’ secondary school education, each student turns out to be an excellent youngster of a good mast of knowledge,
behavior, spirit and ability.

**[Main Measures]**

----Improve the education level of rural areas.

- Augment the dynamics of regional governments’ overall planning. By means of transferring payment and allocating funds, district/county governments should step up their support for poverty-stricken area and prompt a balanced development of area compulsory education.

- Establish a system of inter-school exchange, good principals and teachers of the city are sent to rural areas to help with their education.

----Reform the student recruiting system and exam system

- Improving the entrance exam system of higher education, evaluating a student on the basis of his/her overall quality, tests focus on the practical usage of the subjects, varying testing methods and allowing universities to act more on their own while recruiting.

  Improving the entrance system of intermediary level schools. During high school period, recruiting is based on “multi-chances, two-way option, overall evaluation, various admission”, attending primary and junior high schools without exam, entering the nearest school.

---Reforms on teaching materials and teaching methods.

- Enforce foreign language teaching in primary and secondary schools.
- Enforce fundamental courses
- Develop extending courses.
- Practice research courses.
- Focus on enlightening education and the study and discovery of quality education.
Enforce social practice.

--- Reforming educational system


- Maintain the education level of schools run by non-government, establish a system of on job training for school principals, and evaluate their level of education.

--- Enforce education supervision.

Running education according to the laws, the organizations of education supervision function as supervisor, guide and protector.

--- Develop international exchange and international cooperation.
Diagram one:

The Set-Up of Administrative Structure of Shanghai Municipal Education Commission

Director General of the Municipal Education Commission

Deputy Director General of the Municipal Education Commission (Secretary-General)

Office

Elementary education dept.

Higher education dept.

Vocation & adults Education dept.

Finance dept.

Audit dept.

Personnel dept.

Students dept.

Science & technology dept.

Sports, hygiene & art science dept.

International exchange dept.

Policies & regulations dept.

Development & plan dept.

Supervision dept.

Moral education dept.

Youngsters protection dept.

Logistics& security dept.

Language & character administration dept.

Superintendence dept.
Diagram two:

The Educational Management Network of Shanghai Municipality

Ministry of Education

- Higher education institutions directly subordinated to the Ministry of Education
- Higher education institutions directly subordinated to other ministries and committees
- Higher education institutions directly subordinated to the local departments of Shanghai
- Higher education institutions directly subordinated to Shanghai Municipal Education Commission
- Higher education institutions for adults

Shanghai Municipal Government

- Educational bureaus of districts and counties
  - General senior middle schools
    - Vocational middle
  - Part-time middle schools
    - Primary schools
    - Kindergartens
    - Private schools
  - Technical secondary schools
  - Skilled workers training schools
  - Schools of various levels and kinds for adults

Shanghai Municipal Education Commission

- Municipal bureau of labor & social security
- Educational managing Section of industrial Departments
Diagram three:

The Basic Information of Education Institutions in Shanghai

( 2001-2002 ) Unit: million people

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Number of Institutions</th>
<th>Number of Graduates</th>
<th>Number of Recruitment</th>
<th>Number of Enrollment</th>
<th>Number of Staff Total</th>
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<td>64.54</td>
<td>233.69</td>
<td>24.98</td>
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<td>Research Institutions</td>
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<td>0.10</td>
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<td>9.86</td>
<td>28.00</td>
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<td>33.99</td>
<td>105.56</td>
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1. The number of university & college includes the non-government run institutions
2. The number of recruitment in kindergarten refers the kids from age 3 to 4
3. The figures of vocational school is from The Bureau of Social Security’s statistics in 2001 and 2000