

# SENIA-Beijing Updates



Dear SENIA-Beijing,

**G**reetings to you as we near the end of the first quarter of the 2021-2022 academic year. We warmly welcome all teachers, specialists, parents, students, as well as both our local and wider community. We are a chapter of [SENIA International](#).

As a volunteer organization, we promote social awareness for all abilities, share a variety of evidence-based strategies to support best practices in the local neurodiversity community (including free scientific materials to strengthen e-learning moments), and offer opportunities to integrate everyone through both physical and online spaces. Partnerships, events, and inclusive discussions are what make us stronger.

As SENIA-Beijing continues our work, I cannot help but extend great thanks to our previous board members for all they have done and accomplished in making SENIA-Beijing what it is today. Having said that, I'd also like to introduce you to...

## The 2021–2022 SENIA-Beijing board

Chen Yang  
Marketing Chair



James Rupasinha  
External Expertise Chair



David Dee  
Secretary



Janice Bareng-Pineda  
Events Chair



Dominique Blue  
Membership Chair



Dr. Gerald Anthony  
Chairman



Juliane Karlsson  
Media Chair



This upcoming year, the SENIA-Beijing board has a desire to expand its influence with many exciting new projects for both the local, national, and international community. Our planning theme for the year is: **Small projects, BIG impact.**

At the local level, we are looking to create partnerships with more local organizations in the first half of the year. Our popular External Expertise directory has already been updated and published in our different communication channels. We also have a new board position of Secretary to help document, record, and bridge partnering requests with the local community. Yes, we want to know about your events and in which ways we can support them! Thus far this year we have worked with our key local partners - Best Buddies China, Rong Ai Rong Le, One Village, and Auesome Place. Our Local Integration of Needs and Knowledge (L.I.N.K) program is also still ongoing.

With the changes taking place inside and outside of Beijing, our membership has begun to take a different shape. SENIA-Beijing now has members from other SENIA chapters in China, as collaboration and sharing of resources is now an even more needed reality. Our Membership Chair has exciting initiatives for our members in Beijing and also for those outside. Please continue to read our different platforms for important upcoming information and initiatives.

One such national project SENIA-Beijing is spearheading is a panel on Early Childhood Specialists, at the 2021 Bright Start Conference, November 18 – 20, 2021. Our panel consist of members from SENIA-Beijing, SENIA-Shanghai, and SENIA-Shenzhen/Hong Kong.

Internationally, we will continue to liaise with our parent group, SENIA International for our Winter Conference. This year's conference takes place virtually **December 3 – 5, 2021** and is themed, **Learning Ecosystems** (<https://seniaconference.org/>). This conference brings together powerful and world-renowned speakers with exciting new contents. First, this year the conference will have target strands focusing on inclusive practices, social emotional learning & mental health, intensive needs, math strategies, and literacy strategies. Learning Ecosystems will also have an online job-networking feature for SEL specialists to meet leaders from schools around the world. Lastly, this conference is also offering more scholarships, a flat school rate, and other pricing options not available in previous years to help include as many participants as possible. See our Awards and Scholarships pages and our local WeChat group in the future for more information.

If you are interested in attending the Learning Ecosystems Conference, participating in the job networking fair, being a sponsor, or learning more about SENIA and SENIA-Beijing, please promptly connect with us through our numerous communication channels to receive information on this great professional development and networking opportunity. Reserve a spot for you or your organization while spaces are still available.

Finally, we are finding impact through inclusion. **Our Voices of Children Project** is asking for original artwork from our young children to give them a voice in today's environment. Our goal is to have a national China Exhibition of early childhood artwork with more than 500 pieces from all over China to raise awareness and give voice to our children.

To conclude, in this year of stabilization, we hope everyone is strengthening voice, resources, and community. We look forward to our future cooperation and communication. Have a great year!

Regards,



Dr. Gerald Anthony

Chairman, On Behalf of the SENIA-Beijing Board

## SENIA-Beijing Requests



We are in the process of updating the list of e-mail addresses for our members. We are also sending the October 2021 Newsletter by e-mail. If you don't get it in your inbox, please contact our board with the subject: "E-mail update / Dominique Blue".

Your feedback is essential to keep our External Expertise List updated. In case you notice that someone has left Beijing or that a new professional or organization is now available, please contact the board by e-mail with the subject: "External Expertise List feedback / James Rupasinha".

Are you aware of any events that will benefit our community? If so, please don't be shy. You are more than welcome to post them in our online platforms. If you have any questions, please contact Juliane Karlsson.

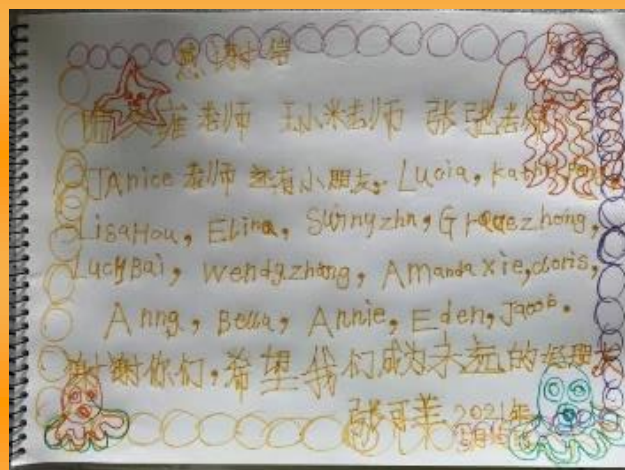
Are you interested in establishing or promoting a partnership with SENIA-Beijing in your upcoming events? Please contact Chen Yang to know how.

The year is running fast and many events and celebrations are coming our way. Let's spread the good news together and advertise them. It strengthens connection and improves our wellbeing. Please, contact Janice Barenga with info you'd like to share.

Any other requests or comments? The board is here for you. Please, contact us by e-mail or on Wechat.



## SENIA-Beijing & Best Buddies



### Best Moments With Our Buddies!

Your presence was and is essential for things to come true. Dreams are built together. We have a dream. We dream, feel, and work for a place for everyone. Our diverse world is what brings colourful lights to our lives. Like a rainbow, it has all colours, shades, intensities.

Juliane Karlsson – Media Chair

### SENIA Beijing | Best Buddies

Missed our most recent event?

Here's a round-up of all the fun-filled activities we had!

<https://sway.office.com/qDCU0ABF9rG9nc21?ref=Link>





**“Everybody is Welcome. Everybody is Needed.”**

**Greta Thunberg**

A global youth movement has called our attention to how and what can be done to help our planet to survive.

“Fridays for Future is a dynamic [global student movement](#) pushing for immediate action on climate change through active campaigning and advocacy. It was chosen as Champion of the Earth for inspiration and action because of its role in highlighting the devastating effects of climate change.”

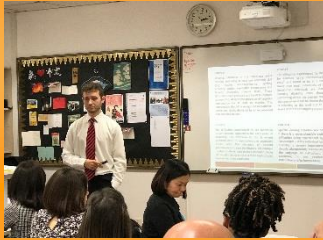
Our community is full of great initiatives too. Let us know what you are doing! To know how, please contact our board by e-mail with the subject: “Local Student Movement”.

#seniabeijingcares

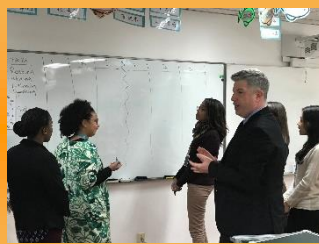


Image source: <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DfVwcMHX0AMaXWi.jpg>

# SENIA-Beijing Spring Conference Snapshots



SENIA-Beijing Conference – Dulwich, 2019



Behind the scenes



SENIA-Beijing Pre-Conference







# H A R R O W



We made it!!!!

Despite the odds, and because of you, our latest SENIA-Beijing Conference was a massive success! With a new board on board, hard work, collaboration, compassion and hope, we finally were together. Remembering the conference now, it feels like a dream.

The warm welcome by the professionals from Harrow filled our hearts and minds with what make us a stronger community. **Sharing knowledge, Love, Time, Understanding, and Integration of Diverse Needs.** Every person is responsible for the final outcome.

On behalf of the SENIA-Beijing board, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all of you. Especially for those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes: people from the front gate, cleaning & cooking staff, IT team, teacher and student volunteers, principals, online participants, face to face participants, and off course the SENIA-Beijing Board.

**Juliane Karlsson – Media Chair**





# SENIA-Beijing News

Once more SENIA-Beijing Spring Conference has passed! So many things have happened and it is time to say **THANK YOU!** We hope you feel how grateful we are for having you in our community.

Expressing our gratitude for those who made our group a strong, trustful, and collaborative space for sharing ideas, concerns, news, experience, and knowledge. But, we are more than that, we are a community whose main pillars are raising awareness, acceptance, and inclusiveness everywhere. How do we do that? Showing our interest to be present, being part of the solutions in our community, offering our help, and supporting each other along the way. The road is full of surprises, and we are all on this together.

Nowadays, I am more and more pondering how we advocate; from words used to actions taken. Moving from "special needs" to human rights. What is special about being different? Isn't being different one of the main conditions that defines us as humans?

Alongside with these questions, the word "difference" transports me to the self-journey of our own lives. The world has changed, as we have. The world is moving from a "teen era" to an "ageing time." The UN is calling our attention, intention, and attitudes to the "Decade of Healthy Ageing" 2021-2030. For which, the core goals are:

1. Ability to meet one's basic needs.
2. Ability to learn.
3. Ability to grow and make decisions.
4. Mobility.
5. Ability to build and maintain relationships.
6. Ability to contribute.

Somehow, for me these goals immediately link back to what we have always advocated. Nothing special, right? Just the right of being included in society.

By Juliane Karlsson

**Juliane Karlsson** is the Media Chair of SENIA-Beijing. Nowadays, she also collaborates in different projects integrating neurodiversity people in the society. One of her life goals is building bridges that include the rights of everyone, from children with different learning needs to elderly people. As author, she uses different platforms to share **SENIA-Beijing values to enhance the community wellbeing**.



## Call for Awards and Scholarships



- Do you know a friend or colleague that has done outstanding work in the area of SEN?
- Have you seen a student advocate for those with differing needs?
- Would you or someone you know like to attend the SENIA Winter Conference, but are just a little short in the professional development budget?
- Do you have a project that you would like to implement in the local community that will help celebrate or bring awareness to the area of SEN?

If your answer to any of these questions is **YES**, please check [SENIA Awards and Scholarships](https://www.seniainternational.org/awardsandscholarship/) (<https://www.seniainternational.org/awardsandscholarship/>) and nominate someone or apply today!

## It is a gift to have you in SENIA-Beijing!

### SENIA-Beijing Donation



Help Support low-cost or free  
SENIA-Beijing Conferences, Events  
and Resources

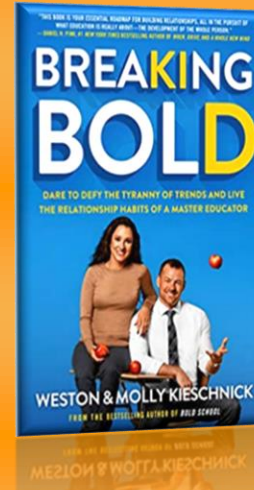


Please scan QR Code  
to Complete Interest  
Form

One  
Donation

## Social Awareness, Activities, and Resources

“Literacy rates among youth (aged 15 to 24) and adults are the test of an educational system, and the overall trend is positive, thanks to the expansion of educational opportunities. Globally, the youth literacy rate increased from 83 per cent to 91 per cent over two decades, while the number of illiterate youth declined from 170 million to 115 million. Regional and gender disparities persist, however.”



### Free Online Resources

<https://www.psych4schools.com.au/free-resources/learning-disabilities/>

<https://www.arcademics.com/>

<https://www.ixl.com/ela/pre-k>

<https://storylineonline.net/>

<https://www.eenet.org.uk/>

### #SENIABeijingCares

Did you ever feel that something wasn't quite right, and you are unable to find out why? You try to understand what the matter is, but you just feel that there is something in the air, something that makes you feel uncomfortable, sick, unhappy, and not satisfied. Without surprise this feeling can also affect a group of people.

Well my friend, there is a word to describe it, which originates all the way back in the mid-18th century. It comes from Old French *mal* ("bad", from Latin *malus*) + *aise* ("ease" or "comfort") = **MALAISE**.

These indefinite but real feelings may even range from bodily pains to psychological issues. However, keep it in mind: you are not alone. Don't let the "*malaise dis-ease*" stick. If you face such feelings, try to talk to your friends, breathe, write down the positive things that happen in your day, be kind with yourself, and be present for others. Life is now.

By Juliane Karlsson



# Voices for Children

Malala Yousafzai once said: "We realize the importance of our voice once we are silenced." In today's world, we often hear the opinions of executives, professionals, teachers, but what about our children?

SENIA-Beijing has partnered with the Bright Start Foundation on two initiatives to give our children in China "a voice."

The first initiative is to serve on a round table for the Bright Start Foundation's Conference, "Early Years, Excellence in Practice.", on November 18-20th, 2021. Five panelists: Stacy Andell, Charlotte Knight-Benjafield, Stephanie Lee, Suzanne Robare, and Dr. Tina Stephenson will discuss critical issues in Early Years development and education, during the Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) strand of the conference.

Our second initiative is to create a "Voices of Children –Children in China" collection.

The concept behind the initiative is to give early years' children a voice through art. The goal is to collect over 2000 such "voices".

We'd like with the help of schools to sponsor and gather children artwork (2000 or more pieces), so we are able to have a showcase exhibition in China. We are simply requesting donated scanned pieces of Early Childhood student artwork to give them a voice. Again, our goal is **2000 or more pieces by January (1000 before the end of November, if possible)**. Please send scanned artwork to [gerald@seniainternational.org](mailto:gerald@seniainternational.org). If wanting more details, please visit the [Voices of Children](http://Voices of Children) website or contact [beijingchapter@seniainternational.org](mailto:beijingchapter@seniainternational.org) for more details.

Any sponsorship will provide proceeds for SENIA awards and scholarships in addition to donations that support the Bright Start Foundation. Let's not keep our children in silence any longer, but give our children a voice!



1 Sample "Voice ". Goal = 2000+ Voices.

## Dear Friends,

This year SENIA-Beijing has implemented new activities and goals. To make things happen as accessibly and free-of-charge as possible, your collaboration is an essential part of our movement. If you are in a comfortable position, here go a few ideas on how you can contribute and be part of it:

- Hosting one of our events;
- Sharing articles, books, ideas that benefit our community;
- Posting your questions/doubts in our online channels;
- Writing something for our newsletters;
- Advertising your events to our community;
- Joining SENIA Youth;
- Being a Best Buddy;
- Donating money (1 RMB or above) to help fund different efforts. All donations are more than welcome.

For financial support, please scan the QR code below. It's the easiest and fastest option to help. If you need a fapiao for your contribution, please contact our board by e-mail with the subject "Supporting SENIA-Beijing Initiatives".

Thanks for all your help and support!

