The "Poverty Alleviation Challenge" program enriches its activities through regional competition formats, cross-border courses, and a comprehensive "Study-Competition-Research" training mechanism. By connecting international experts with young talents through integrating theory with practice and combining scientific research with competitions, it cultivates globally competent youth professionals to jointly address global poverty alleviation challenges. Highlights of this year's innovative initiatives include:

1. Transnational two-stage competition system, enabling mutual learning between civilizations in both directions

•   **Ice-breaking session**: This includes toolbox introductions, competition format explanations, cross-border team formation, and project briefings, designed to help students quickly familiarize themselves with the competition rules and resources. Participating teams can recruit teammates through existing project presentations, fostering interaction and collaboration between domestic and international students.

•   **Field research**: Organize participating students to visit poverty alleviation bases and enterprises, and deepen their understanding of global poverty alleviation cases based on practical cases.

•   **Forum dialogue**: Diversified forms of communication such as "expert lectures" and "expert forums" were set up to invite scholars, entrepreneurs and policy experts from China and Latin America to discuss hot topics in the field of global poverty alleviation, so as to provide students with cutting-edge theoretical reserves.

•   **Mentorship**: There are two types of professional mentor teams throughout the competition.

•   **Academic mentors**: The doctoral team of Tsinghua University sets up academic mentors to help the competition team master the analysis tools and methods required by the competition through theoretical explanation and practical operation guidance.

•   **Professional mentors**: Invite experts from the government, industry and research fields in the field of poverty alleviation and sustainable development to provide guidance for the participating teams on project optimization, innovation and incubation.

•   **Project design and presentation**: the team completed the poverty alleviation project according to the research results, and carried out centralized reporting and evaluation.

•   **Project implementation**: promote the project incubation and implementation through expert guidance and cross-border cooperation.

Table 1: Timeline of the 2025 Poverty Alleviation Challenge program

Time	Activity
Preparatory Stage	
Before April 11	**- Confirmation of the rules and format** **- Partner Invitations** **- Publicity and outreach** **- Topic Collections** • We will solicit realistic topics in the field of poverty alleviation from willing government departments, enterprises and NGOs, and provide topic support for participating teams in a "topic-assigned" format.
Preliminary Stage	
April 11	**- Kick-off for the event** • Chinese and Latin American contestants attended the kick-off online, introducing the features, rules and schedule of the program in detail. • Start cross-border team building of Chinese and Latin American youth, and coordinate topic selection and exchange between Chinese and Latin American students.
April 24	**- China-Chile Poverty Alleviation Lecture** • Experts in the field of poverty alleviation from China and Chile will be invited to hold thematic lectures to provide international perspective and professional advice for the project.
May 8	**- China-Brazil Poverty Alleviation Lecture** • Experts in the field of poverty alleviation from China and Brazil will be invited to hold thematic lectures to provide international perspective and professional advice for the project.
May 15	**- End of the cross-border team, confirmation of the team topic** • Teams can choose one of the topics provided by the organizing committee during the preparatory phase, or they can determine the topic through independent topic selection.

May 16– May 30	**- Mentorship** • Each team will receive a total of 4 hours of mentorship, and can arrange time to discuss with different mentors. • The mentorship includes guidance through the "Tsinghua Poverty Alleviation Toolkit" provided by academic mentors, as well as project advising provided by professional mentors. • The mentoring forms are flexible, including online question list collection and mentor response, online communication, offline communication and other ways.
June 5	**- Submit preliminary materials, including PPT and video files**
June 7	**- Presentation and evaluation** • The participating team presented the projects in the form of PPT and text report. • The winning team will be selected by the Chinese and Latin American judges.
June 15	**- The final results of the preliminary round were announced** • The Chinese students in the winning teams were qualified to travel to Latin America in August for a study tour and participate in the international final. • The Latin American students in the winning teams were qualified to go to China in January 2026 to participate in poverty alleviation study tour.
Final Stage	
	- The Chinese students in the winning teams went to Latin America to participate in the final
	- Ice-breaking • Chinese and Latin American participants introduced their members and project contents to promote teamwork and cross-cultural communication.
	- Field research • The participating teams visited the local enterprises and governments to learn about their poverty alleviation practices. • Conduct case studies through interview-based research.

Mid-late August (3 days each for the Brazil and Chile divisions)	**- Forum on poverty alleviation** • Experts from government, industry and research institutes will be invited to deliver keynote speeches on poverty alleviation experience. • Carry out expert round table dialogue to promote cross-cultural and interdisciplinary exchange of theories and experiences.
	- Mentorship • Chinese and Latin American academic and industry experts will be invited to provide intensive guidance before the final to help students improve their poverty alleviation projects. • The discussion will be carried out from multiple dimensions to improve the rationality, implementability and sustainability of the projects.
	- Presentation and evaluation • The participating teams presented the project results on site in the form of PPT and text report. • The judges from China and Latin America will jointly evaluate the teams and select the gold, silver and bronze award teams respectively.
Summary Stage	
January 2026	**- Latin American students in the winning teams go to China for a study tour** • Invite members of the winning teams to China for project exchanges, including face-to-face interactions with Chinese teachers and students, visits to poverty alleviation bases and institutions in China, and cultural tours in China.
	- Project presentation by the winning team • The winning team reports the project results and summarizes the experience for reference for subsequent events and projects.

2. Multi-stakeholder collaborative expansion and enterprise deep involvement

In terms of expanding the partner network, this year's Poverty Alleviation Challenge program achieved comprehensive breakthroughs and upgrades.

• **In the terms of geographical coverage**, while consolidating core regions such as China, Brazil, and Chile, the program officially included Peru for the first time as a participating country, significantly enhancing its reach and influence across Latin America.

• **In the terms of participating institutions**, while maintaining university participation as the main component, the program innovatively introduced corporate practical forces. Minera Las Bambas S.A.—as the first enterprise representative to join the Poverty Alleviation Challenge program—brought valuable practical insights and industry wisdom to the event through its extensive experience in community development and poverty alleviation practices in Latin America.

• **In terms of partner institutions**, the program established strategic collaborations with multiple renowned domestic and international organizations, including Envision Group, Chile's CGE Group, professional institutions such as the China International poverty alleviation Center, as well as Tsinghua University's School of Architecture, Department of Industrial Engineering, Institute for Accessibility Development, Law School, School of Civil Engineering, and XuetangX, among other academic units spanning multiple disciplines.

These partners will provide full-process support from practical topic selection, project guidance to evaluation, collectively building a sustainable development ecosystem characterized by deep integration of industry, academia, and research with multi-stakeholder collaboration.

3. Integration of curriculum and competition, knowledge sharing and innovation linkage

Tsinghua University, together with major partner universities in Chile and Brazil, jointly launched a transnational course "Chinese and Latin American Youth Responding to Global Challenges" in 2025, aiming to achieve the following linkage:

• **Sharing course resources**: Open the course resources to partners and competitors from China, Chile, Brazil, Peru and other countries participating in the "Poverty Alleviation Challenge" program.

• **Establish China-Latin America Cloud Lecture Class**: The program brings together core experts in the field of poverty alleviation from China, Brazil and Chile. The purpose is to enhance students' understanding ability and comparative vision on development issues in the Global South through in-depth dialogue between

experts from China, Brazil and Chile.

- **Promote AI-related courses**: To empower participating teams to explore technological pathways for poverty alleviation, we collaborate with Tsinghua University's XuetangX platform to curate cutting-edge courses on AI and poverty alleviation, building an AI-for-poverty-alleviation learning system integrating "technological tools + real-world applications". The curriculum is freely accessible to global participants and educators, complemented by expert lectures and digital certification programs. This effort helps young professionals integrate AI innovations into poverty alleviation design, fostering deeper integration of digital technologies with development-related issues.

4. Dual-driven paradigm upgrading and deep integration of academic and practical practices

As a platform for exploring the intersection of poverty alleviation theory and practice, the "Poverty Alleviation Challenge" program adheres to the dual-wheel drive paradigm, strives to achieve a win-win situation between academic research and practical innovation, and showcases the valuable achievements of multidimensional cooperation paths in poverty alleviation between China and Latin America:

In the field of research collaboration, this program employs the "5W1H+" theoretical framework from Tsinghua University's poverty alleviation Toolkit developed by Professor Chen Taotao's team at the Tsinghua University Latin American Center. By systematically compiling cross-institutional case studies, it has established an innovative research system for poverty alleviation.

In the field of practical implementation, this program has established a youth-driven China-Latin America poverty alleviation cooperation platform. Through two phases — preliminary competitions and cross-border finals — it creates an integrated global competence development chain encompassing ice-breaking sessions, field research, forum dialogues, mentorship sessions, and solution design and presentations. By implementing modular competition tracks, the initiative guides young scholars from both sides to independently select research directions, form cross-border innovative teams, and systematically decode poverty alleviation case studies while developing innovative solutions. This approach achieves dual empowerment between academic research and social value creation.

Figure 1: Teams visiting the Copacabana Fortress Orchestra in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Figure 2: Teams visiting the Municipality ofLoespejo, Chile

Figure 3: Seminar at Brazil Final

Figure 4: Seminar at Chile Final

5. China-Latin America mentors collaborated across disciplines, innovatively encouraging transnational cooperation

The "Poverty Alleviation Challenge" program gathered professional mentors from China, Chile, Brazil, and Peru, covering multiple fields such as artificial intelligence, financial empowerment, environmental protection, and corporate social responsibility, forming a cross-regional and interdisciplinary guidance force. During the preliminary stage, the organizing team developed an online reservation system to support participating teams in flexibly selecting mentors and receiving personalized guidance through virtual meetings, question checklists, and other formats. In the final stage, a valuable opportunity was offered for the winning teams to engage in face-to-face exchanges with their China-Latin America mentors. These mentors met in person with the winning teams for in-depth discussions. Through their professional guidance and interdisciplinary expertise, the mentors helped the teams further refine their project design and implementation strategies.

The mentors focused on core topics including the scientific validity of research topics, stakeholder analysis, identification of key pain points, strategic innovation, and feasibility of cross-border applications, guiding students to deepen solution design by integrating real-world poverty scenarios, significantly enhancing the professionalism and implementation potential of projects. The establishment and efficient operation of the global mentor network provided solid intellectual and practical support for participating projects, laying important groundwork for subsequent incubation and promotion of outcome

Figure 5: Group photo of the 2025 Poverty Alleviation Challenge program online mentor meeting

Figure 6: In-person mentoring sessions during the finals of the 2025 Poverty Alleviation Challenge program in Brazil (left) and Chile (right)

Figure 7: Ice-breaking activities at the finals of the 2025 Poverty Alleviation Challenge program

in Brazil (left) and Chile (right)

This year of the competition has achieved innovative breakthroughs in team formation mechanisms as well, pioneering the initiative to organize participating teams through "cross-border collaboration". Chinese and Latin American youth can precisely match professional backgrounds, skill orientations, and cooperation intentions via online platforms. Each team is encouraged to include members from at least two different countries, aiming to spark cross-cultural intellectual exchanges and cultivate collaborative capacities for addressing global challenges among young people. At the finals in Brazil and Chile, cross-border team members gained valuable opportunities for face-to-face interaction, effectively breaking down cultural barriers and genuinely fostering cross-cultural learning and mutual understanding.

The organic integration of a multicultural mentorship system and innovative team formation model has created a global learning environment for participating teams. Mentors from diverse cultural backgrounds provide rich academic support and practical guidance to multinational teams through their multifaceted professional perspectives. Transnational teams effectively understand and absorb mentors' cross-cultural expertise, transforming diverse wisdom into actionable solutions. Within this two-way interactive learning ecosystem, mentors' interdisciplinary knowledge and students' global practices mutually nourish each other, expanding the global perspective of solutions while enhancing local adaptability.

6. Building a long-term cooperative ecosystem to promote sustainable incubation of poverty alleviation programs

The "Poverty Alleviation Challenge" program competition is dedicated to building a sustainable cooperation ecosystem and promoting the incubation and implementation of poverty alleviation initiatives.

On one hand, the event focuses on actively exploring the construction of poverty alleviation practice bases as a key initiative, creating an on-site visit and exchange platform for Chinese and Latin American youth. Through organizing frontline field studies, immersive workshops, and cross-cultural dialogues, it facilitates the deep integration of theory and practice. On the other hand, it innovatively collaborates with Tsinghua University departments and corporate partners to develop real-world challenges. Departmental experts and industry practitioners jointly provide competition topics closely aligned with practical needs, while integrating resources from multinational institutions to systematically explore sustainable pathways from "competition outcomes" to "regional promotion".

These measures not only lay a solid foundation for future development of China-Latin

America poverty alleviation practice bases but also strengthen the long-term impact of cooperative models validated through practice. This provides a replicable and scalable collaboration paradigm for global poverty alleviation efforts.