Going Global Partnerships Awards 2025

Supporting universal access to clean water

Partners

University of Lancashire, UK

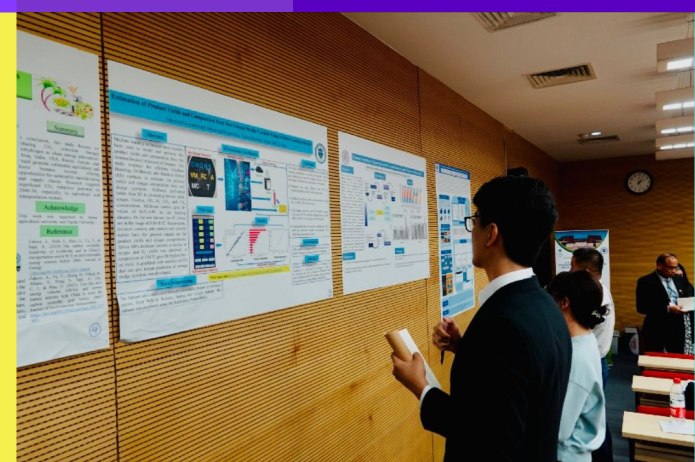
East China University of Science and Technology, China

This partnership has the potential to transform access to clean water globally by developing an innovative solution for removing toxic pollutants from water sources.

The result of collaborative UK-China research, this scalable, one-step solution uses tiny magnetic nanoparticles (a billionth of a metre scale) to capture highly toxic chemicals from water. With proven results based on real-world testing in the UK and China, the technology has the potential to be truly life-changing for communities around the globe by increasing access to safe drinking water.

Spotlight: the power of nanotechnology

Through cross-border, collaborative research between the UK and China, the project has unlocked the potential of nanotechnology to transform water sanitation and treatment. Engaging with policymakers, educators, students and the wider public through key science festivals and policy events has helped to raise mass awareness of this powerful technology.



Highlights

- Developed an innovative, scalable water treatment solution for removing highly toxic pollutants from water sources
- Supported the professional development of young researchers, particularly women, through collaborative training and exchange opportunities
- Conducted high-level policy engagement, including United Nations policy panels
- Developed an online joint teaching module for students in the UK and China

Contributing to SDG 6
Clean Water and Sanitation

Through its cost-effective and scalable solution for removing dangerous pollutants from water, the partnership has the potential to benefit communities worldwide. Proven to capture dangerous ‘forever chemicals’ that can pose serious health risks, the solution can directly contribute to universal access to safe drinking water.