

CONTENTS

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THE FIRST SCO PEOPLE'S FORUM

- 1 Speech by Mr. Ji Bingxuan, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress
- 5 Speech by Mr. Liu Guozhong, Governor of Shaanxi Province
- 7 Speech by Mr. Wang Yajun, Vice-Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee
- 11 Speech by Mr. Dou Enyong, Vice-President of CNIE
- 14 Speech by Mr. Nurlan Akkoshkarov, Deputy Secretary General of SCO
- 18 Xi'an Declaration of the First SCO People's Forum
- 22 A Summary of the First SCO People's Forum

HIGHLIGHTS

- 29 CAFIU Vice-President Ai Ping Visits Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro

CHINA AND THE WORLD

- 33 Suggestions on Advancing the Initiative of China + Visegrád Group
- 36 Shanghai Cooperation Organization: New Areas of Cooperation in the New Era
- 39 Economic Cooperation among Countries along the Belt and Road Delivers Fruitful Outcomes

FRIENDLY EXCHANGES

- 44 People-to-People Cooperation with Cambodia Moving Forward
- 49 CAFIU Delegation Attends a Consultation with NGOs at UN Headquarter
- 51 Visit of Russian and Central Asian Civil Organizations to China
- 54 Visit of Neighboring Countries Civil Organizations to China

SIRONET

- 57 Building Bridges from the Heart of Europe
- 60 Take the Unique Advantage of Red Cross Society of China to Enhance People-to-People Connectivity

CHINA IN FOREIGNERS' EYES

- 66 Chief Minister of the Japanese Embassy in China, Noriyuki Shikata, talks about China and contemporary China-Japan relationship

QUARTERLY UPDATES

- 70 Latest News in International Exchanges of CNIE Member Organizations

Carrying Forward the Shanghai Spirit, Pooling Strength from Civil Society and Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind

**Opening Ceremony Speech by Mr. Ji Bingxuan
Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee
National People's Congress, People's Republic of China**

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,
Good morning!

It's a great pleasure to gather in the beautiful city of Xi'an in the wonderful spring, accompanied by warm weather and blossoming flowers. We are here for the First Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) People's Forum, co-organized by China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and the People's Government of Shaanxi Province. On behalf of the organizers, I wish to extend warm welcome to all the delegates!

SCO was established in 2001 from the Shanghai Five Group. Thanks to joint effort, in less than two decades, it has evolved into an influential player



in international relations, playing a significant role in maintaining regional peace and stability, promoting democratic international relations and reforming and improving global governance system. The Shanghai Spirit featuring "mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilizations and pursuit of common development" stemmed from the Shanghai Five Group and developed in tandem with SCO. As the soul and recipe for the success, it not only guides SCO's development, but also

gains more influence and appeal internationally, bringing together more identifiers and supporters, which provides precious experience for building a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness and justice, cooperation and win-win.

Nowadays, human society is in the midst of major development, transformation and adjustment. With deepening multi-polarization and economic globalization, progressing informationization and cultural diversity, and a brewing new round of scientific revolution, countries are more interconnected and interdependent, and the globe is becoming a community with shared destiny. Peace, development, cooperation and win-win is gaining more momentum. However, human society is also witnessing ever increasing challenges and risks. The world is haunted by lackluster economy, ongoing impact of the financial crisis, widening development gap,

frequent wars, cold war mentality and power politics, as well as non-traditional threats like terrorism, cyber security and climate change. Peace and development is the common aspiration of people worldwide. Passing on peace from generation to generation, providing uninterrupted engine for development, letting civilizations shine in glory—these are not only common expectations of all people, but also the historic responsibility of statesmen. Building a community with a shared future for mankind and delivering win-win and sharing outcomes represent China's voice and propositions, to which Chinese government and people are dedicated.

The Communist Party of China convened its 19th National Congress in October 2017. General Secretary Xi Jinping stated clearly in the report that “(we will) build a community with a shared future for mankind, a world of enduring peace, universal security and common prosperity, a world



that is open, inclusive, clean and beautiful". This is China's wisdom and solution to reforming and improving global governance system and solving the risks and challenges facing the international community. At the 2017 Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of SCO Member States held in Astana, Xi also advocated "building an efficient framework for global and regional security and cooperation, and building a community with a shared future for mankind". This indicates that building a community with a shared future for mankind is also the consensus of SCO member states. Coinciding with Shanghai Spirit, it is the common choice and pursuit of diverse countries in new historic scenario to seek further development of SCO. We believe that guided by this ideal, SCO will be more influential as a united and efficient international organization covering multiple fields. Its status will be consolidated both internationally and regionally. It will play a bigger role in global governance system, further enhancing people's wellbeing in its member states.

Building a community with a shared future for mankind is a historic process. Delivering this target requires consensus building among human society and joint efforts and participation of people from different countries. Only with mutual understanding, mutual respect, people-to-people connectivity, mutual benefit and reciprocity can we pool the strength and consolidate the popular basis for building this community. We should carry forward and implement the Shanghai Spirit, so that SCO member states can enhance mutual respect and trust, and cooperate more

deeply and extensively on the basis of equality, consultation, mutual understanding and mutual accommodation, in order to benefit people from member states. According to Chinese President Xi Jinping, "NGOs are an important force to promote economic and social development, as well as participate in international cooperation and global governance." The purpose to host the SCO People's Forum is to inherit and spread the Shanghai Spirit, to allow NGOs to play a unique role in bridging communication, reflecting popular will and pooling strength from civil society, so as to contribute wisdom and effort to the long term development of SCO and a community with a shared future for mankind. I hope you can be actively engaged in this Forum and make it a success with your deep communication and joint efforts to promote friendly cooperation, in order to make this Forum a pragmatic and efficient platform to contribute ideas, solicit wisdom, learn from each other and forge friendship. I hope it could bring people from different countries closer and deepen their friendship, therefore creating a sound popular basis and social environment for building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

Building a community with a shared future for mankind is a great feat and uphill journey. When we are in one heart, we can move Mount Tai. As long as we think in one mind and work in one direction, with unremitting effort, SCO will surely embrace a brighter future, and the grand ambition

of building a community with a shared future for mankind will be delivered!

We uphold dialogue and consultation to build a world of enduring peace;

We uphold joint building and sharing to build a world of universal security;

We uphold win-win cooperation to build a world of common prosperity;

We uphold communication and mutual learning to build an open and inclusive world;

We uphold green and low carbon development to build a clean and beautiful world.

These are China's voices and attitude. And more importantly, this is what China is and will be committed to.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

Xi'an is an important city in Northwestern China and an internationally renowned mecca of history and culture. As capital of many dynasties, it is a great reservoir of traditional Chinese culture. You will have a sense of history, breadth, openness and inclusiveness of Chinese culture. Besides, Xi'an is the starting point of the Ancient Silk Road. As Eastern and Western civilizations converge in history, Chinese culture takes in the refined elements from other civilizations and integrates them into its own, making itself a

global civilization shared by all cultures. You will find Chinese culture roots in the living beings and observes everything, and it thinks in terms of the movement of celestial beings, the law of nature and human society, indicating a philosophy that combines heaven, earth, human and other material beings. You can find Chinese civilization seeks truth from facts, values authenticity, puts people first, prioritizes agriculture, and attaches great importance to the grass root national interest. You will also feel the mutual respect, tolerance, harmonious coexistence and common prosperity of 56 ethnic groups, who live and thrive under the same sky. There are neither superior nor inferior cultures and civilizations, all of them deserve respect and sharing. You will sense the passion and morality of Chinese people, including commitment, dedication, caring for others, charity, trust worthiness, keeping words, honoring promises and sincerity.

The vast land is caressed by spring breeze and decorated by growing wheat, blossoming flowers, clear water and dynamic beings. They are all welcoming friends from afar. I hope you enjoy your stay in Xi'an.

I wish this Forum a full success!

Thank you.

(Translated by Yang Le)

Opening Ceremony Speech by Liu Guozhong, Governor of the People's Government of Shaanxi Province



Honorable Mr. Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, People's Republic of China,

Honorable Mr. Wang Yajun, Vice Minister of the International Department of CPC Central Committee,

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

In the beautiful season of spring when we are caressed by breeze and blossoming flowerers, we celebrate the opening of the First Shanghai Cooperation Organization People's Forum. On behalf of Shaanxi Provincial CPC Committee, the government and people of Shaanxi Province, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the guests and congratulate the convocation of the Forum!

Deepening economic globalization makes

countries more interdependent than ever. Tackling common challenges through cooperation and seeking win-win development by breaking the zero-sum game has become the global consensus. Since SCO was founded 17 years ago, member states have upheld the Shanghai Spirit of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilizations and pursuit for common development. Solid steps have been taken to strengthen deeper cooperation in different fields, to enhance good neighborliness and mutual trust and towards building a community with a shared future for mankind, setting a paradigm of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness and justice, cooperation and win-win.

According to Chinese President Xi Jinping, NGOs are an important engine for economic and social development and a significant force to participate in international cooperation and global governance. For the first time the SCO Summit adds People's Forum themed

“Promoting Regional Peace and Cooperation, Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind: The Mission of NGOs”. Delegates will discuss how to deepen people-to-people and cultural exchanges, expand regional cooperation and promote people’s livelihood. This will enhance mutual understanding and friendship among member states and explore new paths of development. Shaanxi enjoys profound cooperation with SCO, as it is the permanent venue of Euro-Asia Economic Forum, which mainly comprises SCO member states and observatory states. In the future, we will work harder to renew our contribution to the exchanges and cooperation among states.

As is known to all, Shaanxi is the starting point of the Ancient Silk Road. In the long course of history, it was the businessmen that trail-blazed the road of friendship that transcended thousands of years. With the implementation of the Great Western Development Strategy and the Belt and Road Initiative, Shaanxi stands again at the forefront of a new round of opening-up. By far Shaanxi has opened 57 international flights and established commercial ties with over 190 countries and regions. 118 branches were founded in Shaanxi by Fortune 500 companies. The China-Europe commodity liner called Chang'an International Mail is operated normally, and Xi'an Port is the only Chinese inland port granted both international and domestic codes. In the last five years, the total import and export of Shaanxi have reached nearly 850 million dollars and accommodated 16 million travelers from home and abroad. By the end of last year, 11,000 students from 156 countries and regions have

come here to study. It is fair to say that Shaanxi was a bridge and window for China’s reform and opening-up, and nowadays it is the hot land of development.

Shaanxi is working hard to implement the consensus of the 19th CPC National Congress. Guided by socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era under the leadership of Xi Jinping and according to the innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development philosophy, Shaanxi is building a Pilot Area of Free Trade, the Belt and Road Center for transportation, logistics, international industrial capacity cooperation, educational cooperation, culture and tourism, as well as Silk Road financial center. It is dedicated to developing hub economy, portal economy and flux economy, and its prospects are brighter. This Forum provides a precious opportunity for us to deepen international exchange and cooperation and create a scenario of full opening-up. We will do our utmost to guarantee the Forum a success and serve well the delegates. I hope you can visit the province outside the Forum to feel its unique scenery and culture, and find opportunities for cooperation.

Last but not least, I wish the First SCO People’s Forum a full success!

I hope the delegates and friends enjoy your visit and good health in Shaanxi!

Thank you!

(Translated by Yang Le)

Promote People-to-People Connectivity and Jointly Build a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind

**Speech by Mr. Wang Yajun,
Vice-Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central
Committee and Advisor to CNIE, at the opening ceremony
of the first SCO People's Forum**

Respected Mr. Ji Bingxuan, Vice-Chairman of NPC,

Respected Mr. Kumar Nepal, former Prime Minister of Nepal,

Respected Mr. Liu Guozhong, Governor of

Shaanxi Province,

Dear guests, ladies and gentlemen, friends,

It's a pleasure to meet with you in Xi'an, a world renowned historic city, and present the 1st SCO People's Forum together. I'd like to, taking this



opportunity, on behalf of China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), extend my congratulations to the successful staging of this forum. We warmly welcome all Chinese and foreign representatives attending this forum and thank Shaanxi Province for all the elaborate preparation and thoughtful arrangement for this forum!

Since its founding 17 years ago and with its development, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has become an important platform of regional cooperation. It not only plays an indispensable role in promoting regional stability and prosperity, but also makes active contribution to world peace and development. People-to-people exchange is not only an important force driving the development of SCO, but also important content of SCO development. 2,000 years ago, the ancient Silk Road connected all countries and their people in this region, and witnessed the profound traditional friendship among people of all countries featuring commodity exchanges and mutual learning. Since its foundation, SCO has been attaching great importance to people-to-people exchanges and cooperation, and actively putting forward and developing the traditional friendship among people of this region. In recent years, SCO countries have carried out tremendous cooperation and exchange in areas such as education, culture, health care, sports, tourism, youth and media. People-to-people exchange has not only become an important pillar supporting the cooperation and exchange in all areas, but also become an important belt connecting the heart of people in this region. In July 2015, the Development Strategy of Shanghai Cooperation

Organization until 2025 approved by the 15th meeting of the Council of Heads of SCO member states defined the development trend of SCO in the future 10 years. It explicitly proposed to create beneficial conditions for deepening people-to-people exchange and exchange among social organizations as well as deepening cooperation in terms of science & technology, education, culture, health care and tourism, actively develop people-to-people exchange carried out by NGOs and civil society, thus injecting new impetus to regional people-to-people exchange.

As China's largest NGOs' federation specialized in international cooperation and exchange, CNIE strives to extensively contact domestic and international civil organizations and activists, promote Chinese civil organizations participating in cooperation and exchange with foreign NGOs, and boost friendship among people of all countries. Since its foundation in 2005, CNIE has been actively carrying out people-to-people exchanges with SCO countries, and strengthening mutual understanding and friendship between the people of China and other SCO countries. In order to further strengthen cooperation and exchanges among civil organizations and people of this region, facilitate all countries in implementing Development Strategy of Shanghai Cooperation Organization until 2025, CNIE launched the First SCO People's Forum, in an effort to offer an effective platform of strengthening exchanges and promoting cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

Our world today is in a phase of great

development, great reform and great adjustment, and peace, development and win-win cooperation have become the trend of times. With the in-depth development of world multi-polarization, economic globalization, social informationization and cultural diversification, the contact and inter-dependence among all countries is increasing. Meanwhile, global challenges such as war, conflicts, terrorism, climate change and infectious diseases are occurring continuously. In a world all countries depend on each other with their interests deeply integrated, no single country could prosper or face difficulties solely on its own strength. Therefore, it has become the wish of people of all countries to build a world featuring lasting peace, universal security, common prosperity, openness and inclusiveness, cleanliness and beauty, and build a community of shared future for mankind. The “Shanghai Spirit” featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, mutual consultations, respect for cultural diversity, and a desire for common development is the soul of SCO, and it is in conformity with the requirement of times, namely all countries work together to confront challenges and build a community of shared future. Civil organizations are bridges connecting governments and people, and are important force in driving social economic development, promoting international cooperation, and building a community of shared future for mankind. Under the guidance of “Shanghai Spirit”, CNIE is willing to work with civil organizations of different countries in this region to contribute wisdom and strength to regional development and prosperity from the following aspects.

First, promote exchange and mutual learning

among civilizations, and maintain regional peace and stability. The region which SCO member countries locates in is a place in which different western and eastern civilizations, cultures and religions converge. Civilization becomes colorful and rich for the sake of exchange and mutual learning. Civilization exchange and mutual learning is an important force driving human civilization progress and world peace and development. We should strengthen civilization exchange and mutual learning. While people-to-people exchange is the most profound force driving it. By staging the SCO People's Forum, CNIE is willing to offer a platform of civilization exchange and mutual learning. CNIE is also willing to participate in other forums and exchange activities organized by all presenting countries, thus promoting regional peace and stability with civilization exchange.

Second, carry out pragmatic cooperation in areas related with people's livelihood, and share the achievements of development and prosperity. Although they are with different development levels, SCO countries all shoulder the important mission of develop economy and improve people's livelihood. The People of SCO countries all have a yearning for good life. The Belt and Road Initiative offers a new platform for regional cooperation and precious historic opportunity for regional development. Civil organizations should, focus on Belt and Road Initiative, strengthen cooperation in areas related with people's livelihood, such as culture, education, science & technology, health care, poverty reduction and disaster relief, thus making people of all countries really benefit from this program.

CNIE will support Chinese social organizations go abroad and carry out public welfare programs related with people's livelihood in SCO member countries, so as to benefit local people and share the achievement of development and prosperity with them.

Third, actively promote people-to-people connectivity, and join hands to build a community with a shared future for mankind. The friendship between peoples is the foundation of state to state relations. The support from people of all countries is an indispensable element for the development of this region. Only by strengthening exchange among people of different countries, strengthening affinity and bond among people in this region, can various pragmatic cooperation work smoothly and the foundation of national friendship be more solid. Setting strengthen the awareness of community of shared future for this region and the world as the working direction and objective of people-to-people connections, CNIE would like to, work with NGOs of all countries, and take their advantage of straight contact with people, fasten the belt of people-to-people bond. The mutual understanding among youth of this region should be paid special attention, so as to ensure the vitality of friendly cooperation under the framework of SCO.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

The SCO People's Forum turns out to be a new platform of people-to-people exchange and cooperation for this region. Today, more than 80 Chinese and foreign representatives of civil organizations from member countries, observer countries and dialogue partner countries of SCO gathered together and made discussion around the theme of this forum—"promote regional peace and development, create a community with a shared future for mankind: the mission of non-governmental organizations". We sincerely hope all statesmen and NGO representatives presented actively contribute your experience and share your ideas, contribute suggestions and people's wisdom for the development of SCO and this region. "Shanghai spirit" is our common idea and SCO is our common homeland. Let's join hands and carry out "Shanghai spirit", so as to make our contribution to the construction of a common homeland featured security, stability, advancement and prosperity.

May the 1st SCO People's Forum a great success!

Thank you!

(Translated by Ma Jiatai)

Pool the Wisdom of the People to Promote Peace and Development

**Speech by Mr. Dou Enyong,
Vice-President of China NGO Network for International Exchanges
(CNIE) at the closing session of the First Shanghai Cooperation
Organization People's Forum**

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,
Good morning.

Thanks to the joint efforts of all participants, the First Shanghai Cooperation Organization People's Forum has completed its agenda and now we are holding the closing session here. First of all, on behalf of the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), I would like to pay tribute and extend our thanks to all the distinguished guests and participants coming to the forum.

Various parties have rendered support to the forum. Mr. Ji Bingxuan, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress, Mr. Liu Guozhong, Governor of the People's Government of Shaanxi Province, Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, former Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Nurlan Akkoshkarov, Deputy Secretary General of the Secretariat of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization(SCO) attended the opening session and delivered speeches. Over



80 participants from 12 countries had in-depth discussions at the plenary session and in panel discussions. Just now, moderators from the two panel discussions reported to the audience the discussion of the their respective groups, from which we can see everyone has actively offered opinions and insights and contributed wisdom and shared experience with the aim of promoting peace and development of the world and carrying forward the Shanghai Spirit. The forum has met its goal and adopted the Xi'An Declaration of the First Shanghai Cooperation Organization People's Forum. Moreover, participants got first-hand experience of the charm of traditional Chinese culture through the Silk Road cultural exhibition. During the forum, we talked about the future development of the SCO from the perspective

of the people and have reached the following consensus:

Firstly, we should maintain regional security and stability in the spirit of coordination and mutual assistance. Solidarity and coordination are fine traditions of the SCO. Regional security and stability are priority tasks of the SCO. Participants agreed that NGOs of our respective countries should strengthen coordination, actively offer suggestions and advice and make joint efforts to meet both traditional and nontraditional security threats. We should also cooperate with the United Nations and other international organizations as well as NGOs from other countries to, together, promote enduring peace in the region and the world.

Secondly, we should promote alignment of development strategies of various countries in the spirit of win-win cooperation. Win-win cooperation is the common task of SCO members in pursuing regional development. In the spirit of wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, we stand ready to undertake research on the Belt and Road Initiative, Eurasian Economic Union and other regional cooperation initiatives as well as development strategies of different countries to promote alignment of development strategies of countries in the region. We agree to facilitate communication and cooperation in various fields at different levels among governments, enterprises and NGOs within the framework of the SCO by harnessing our respective advantages.

Thirdly, we should promote exchanges of different cultures in the spirit of inclusiveness and mutual learning. The establishment and development of the SCO proved that countries

with different civilizations and cultures are able to realize peaceful coexistence and common development through equal dialogue and mutual respect. We agree to carry out variety of people-to-people and cultural exchange activities, promote communication, exchange and dialogue among SCO countries, deepen understanding and mutual trust among peoples and strengthen people-to-people connectivity based on respects for diversity of civilizations.

Fourthly, we should help reduce poverty and improve people's livelihood by taking pragmatic cooperative actions. Members of SCO share an important task of developing national economy and improve the people's livelihood. Participants appreciate China's successful experience in alleviating poverty and improving living standards of its people in the world's largest developing country. We hold that since NGOs enjoy natural advantage in reaching out to the people, we should continue to make joint efforts to facilitate pragmatic cooperation of livelihood projects between SCO countries in flexible and diversified manners to bring out tangible outcomes to benefit the peoples.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

The international and regional situation is undergoing profound and complex changes faced with a growing number of uncertainties and destabilizing factors. Only if we support each other through thick and thin, can we properly address the threats and challenges. The principles of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, mutual consultations, respect for cultural diversity, and a desire for common development are the defining feature of SCO cooperation as well as the essence

of the Shanghai Spirit. Under the guidance of the Shanghai Spirit, the First SCO People's Forum pooled the hard work and wisdom of all participants, produced fruitful outcomes that reflected the theme of the forum "Promoting Regional Peace and Cooperation, Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind -- Mission of the NGOs". In order to give greater role of NGOs in promoting SCO cooperation, we would like to make three proposals:

Firstly, NGOs should be the envoy for peace, contributing to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. Enduring peace is the eternal aspiration of the people and universal security is the common and ever pursuing goal of mankind. To realize enduring peace and universal security of all parts of the world is what inherent in building a community with a shared future for mankind. A community with a shared future for mankind, echoing the common aspiration for peace of people from various countries, accords with the fundamental interests of all countries and has been incorporated in the resolutions of the UN and the SCO Heads of State Council Meeting. We hope that NGOs can play the role of the envoy for peace and support each other to enhance mutual understanding of our people so that a SCO community with a shared future can be firstly built to set an example for the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Secondly, NGOs should be the bridge for cooperation, contributing to regional cooperation and improvement of people's livelihood. Common prosperity is a shared aspiration of all peoples. While pursuing our own development, countries should proactively help other countries to develop and bring more benefits to people from various countries.

NGOs are an important force in promoting social and economic development, advancing international cooperation and improving global governance. Participants to the forum are from all works of life including peace, poverty alleviation, education, health, humanitarian assistance, environmental protection, women and youth development. We call on NGOs to play the role of bridge for cooperation in their respective fields, improve living standards of local people through concrete projects and contribute to common prosperity of the region.

Thirdly, NGOs should be forerunner of communication, contributing to people-to-people connectivity through various cooperation platforms. It's a good start for participants to the forum to jointly discuss ways to promote people-to-people connectivity. Going forward, we encourage NGOs to fully mobilize their imitativeness to become forerunner of communication, making more efforts to lift unnecessary misunderstanding between people, to enhance mutual understanding and better answer the needs of the people. NGOs should make the best use of established platforms and build new ones for dialogues between the people to bring people closer to each other so that people of various countries accept each other from the bottom of their hearts.

Finally, on behalf of the China NGO Network for International Exchanges, I would once again extend our gratitude to all participants, to the Shaanxi Provincial Government and to each and every man and woman committed hard work to the forum.

Thank you all!

(Translated by Wang Zhiyun)

Text of the Address made by Hon. Madhav Kumar Nepal, former Prime Minister and Member of the House of Representatives of Nepal, at the First SCO People's Forum held in Xian, Shaanxi Province, on April 09, 2018

Respected Chair,
Senior Chinese leaders and officials,
Excellencies and dignitaries,
Experts and NGO representatives,
Friends from the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen:
Namaskar, Nihau and Greetings to all

I am extremely pleased to once again come to Xian, the oldest of the Four Great Ancient Capital Cities of China and currently capital of Shaanxi province and attend the First SCO People's Forum being hosted and sponsored by China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE). I have the honour and privilege to bring the message of profound goodwill and best wishes from the people of Nepal, a land of Mount Sagarmatha (Everest) and Sakyamuni Buddha, the proponent of universal peace, non-violence, truth, compassion and fraternity, to all delegates who have come to attend this conference and to the friendly people and government of China

This meeting assumes special significance in the sense that the Forum is now hosting an important conference involving leaders, professionals, think-tanks, representatives of the non-governmental organizations and other experts on the most pertinent theme of "Promoting Regional Peace



and Cooperation, Jointly Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind: Role of NGOs”.

The keynote address given by His Excellency the Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress has set the tone for our two-day deliberations on various aspects of ways and means of promoting and fostering peace and cooperation for the welfare of the people of the world and expectations of the role of the NGOs in sustaining this process. I wish the conference all success in its endeavours to promote universal prosperity through regional cooperation and harnessing of all available resources.

When I come to Xian, I am reminded of its glorious past and its gradual transformation

into a major cultural, industrial, scientific and educational centres of China after China embarked on the road to modernisations in agriculture, industry, defence and science and technology. Like many other cities, Xian is now the important site of hi-tech industries and innovative enterprises. I cherish sweet memories of my last visit to this city in 2010 as Prime Minister of Nepal and the occasion to see the wonders of Terracotta Army and pottery artefacts that distinguish this region. I also had the opportunity to visit Famen Temple located 120 kilometres from Xian that has the holy finger bone of Lord Buddha. Besides being the venue of 27th Conference of the World Fellowships of Buddhists of 2014, the first time such meeting was held in China, Xian thus represents one of several Chinese cities that have closer connections and linkages with Nepal, the sacred birthplace of Sakyamuni Buddha, for millennia.

Excellencies, Distinguished Friends and Delegates,

Nepal and China enjoy excellent bilateral ties of friendship, cooperation and exchange spanning for centuries. In modern times, both countries have established formal diplomatic relations on the basis of five principles of peaceful co-existence. China has always respected our sovereignty and territorial integrity. All the time, Nepal has taken clear position on Tibet and Taiwan as integral parts of China.

Besides, Nepal considers China as one of the most important world powers instrumental for universal peace, stability and progress. China has remained one of our most important development partners extending substantial assistance in our quest for rapid socio-economic progress and prosperity.

While talking of our bilateral relations, let me extend our best wishes to the Government and people of China who are marching ahead under the dynamic leadership of His Excellency

President Xi Jinping specially in the context of the successful completion of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China that has chalked out a new path both in China's domestic politics and international relations.

We have no doubt that China is poised to play a major role in the world as it is expected to become the foremost economic power in a few years consistent with its drive for hastened social and economic development. China's rise as the number one power in the world is sure to further advance the cause of peace, progress, stability and cooperation.

Coming back to the First SCO People's Forum, I am very happy that the organizers have taken such an important initiative in hosting such a pertinent meeting. The Forum is being organised as a warm-up event to mark the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit being hosted by China in Qingdao, Shandong Province. I thank the organizers for allowing me to share my thoughts on Advancing Strategic Co-ordination for Shared Development and Expanding Regional Cooperation.

Regional cooperation has become one of the salient features of international relations in the past few decades as nations have forged suitable frameworks for pooling their resources, technologies, capitals and inherent strengths for shared benefit and for accelerated scale of social and economic advancement. While the European Union represents one of the best success stories of strategic coordination and regional cooperation, regionalism has started to play a leading role in promoting collective cooperation among countries in several parts of the world.

In our region, ASEAN has become one of the most important regional cooperation frameworks. Two other organisations that have come into place are SAARC and BIMSTEC. While BIMSTEC has started to look promising in its quest for

promoting cooperation among countries of the Bay of Bengal region, SAARC started with such a great expectation despite persisting political differences among countries of the region, is facing rough weather.

As a country currently chairing both the regional organisations, Nepal ardently believes that there is no other alternative to regional cooperation and Nepal reiterates its pledge to further strengthen these two organisations with a view to making them the vanguard of a sustained process of cooperation among countries of the region for collective benefit and shared prosperity. Nepal believes that countries of our region will ultimately rise to the occasion to promote peace and regional cooperation taking into account ardent desire of the people for accelerated social and economic advancement. Peaceful dialogue and compromise should be the hallmarks of relations among countries for collective benefit and cooperation.

Esteemed Friends and Colleagues,

Coming back to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) that is going to hold its annual summit at Qingdao within some weeks, let me, first of all, laud the initiative undertaken by leaders of the SCO in making the organisation more vibrant and active. From a modest start as the Shanghai Five in 1996, leaders of six countries, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan launched the SCO in June 2002 and the organization came into formal existence in September 2003.

As of June 2017, SCO comprises eight full member countries with the addition of India and Pakistan as new members. With four observers, Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia, there are six Dialogue Partners. Apart from Nepal, five more countries in this category are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Turkey. Besides, Turkmenistan and some organisations

like the United Nations, ASEAN and CIS have guest attendances in the SCO summits.

SCO that has observer status in the UN and has forged working relations with a number of regional and international organizations, is a major political, economic and security organization with its eight full members covering almost eighty percent of the Eurasia's landmass, comprising approximately half of the world's population and contributing a quarter of the world's GDP. After its inception, SCO has initiated a number of large-scale projects designed to promote cooperation in such vital areas of transport, energy and telecommunications. The organization encompasses a wider area of cooperation with a view to consolidating coordination and cooperation involving various stakeholders.

Hence, during the period of its existence, the SCO has proved to be synonymous with promotion and enhancement of mutual friendship and trust among member countries, guarantee of regional security and stability, and acceleration of socio-economic and technological development in the world.

In a nutshell, the SCO composed of its members, observers and dialogue partners represent an amalgam of different faiths, cultures, civilizations and natural resources, talents and other resources. It is a major organisation now that seeks to promote strategic coordination and regional cooperation on a more enduring basis. As the world is facing uncertainties in the midst of growing tendencies of protectionism and isolation of many poor countries from the mainstream of global development, it is high time that we stay united for the common cause of peace, development and stability in the world when a huge number of people are still facing poverty, underdevelopment and deprivation.

I appreciate the endeavours being made by the organisers in holding the First SCO People's

Forum with a view to promoting dialogue among countries for promoting strategic coordination and regional cooperation. It may be pertinent to note that under the dynamic stewardship of the core leader His Excellency Xi Jinping, China has made great strides in launching projects for global cooperation.

In this connection, it may be more pertinent to at least refer to vital projects launched by China in the recent past that have major bearings on regional cooperation. They include Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank and One Belt One Road or Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Nepal has joined both the major initiatives of China with a view to getting maximum advantages from such projects. The other major initiative of China is its emphasis on BRICS involving Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa with a view to pooling resources for common benefit.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have become part of life in the world politics. Though the terminology, NGO, was first coined in 1945 after the formal launching of the United Nations, they existed in several forms and names in a sporadic sense since the late nineteenth century. In a way, the UN being itself an inter-governmental entity of universal scale, started to give legitimacy and specialized international status to many bodies.

In recent years, the NGOs have become globally active and assumed different manifestations. Consistent with their levels, they have become wide-ranging in their functions starting from day-to-day activities to most professional works including Track Two diplomacy and other activities relating to public goods. However, there are NGOs that have been facing criticisms for their either being blatantly anti-governments or their works being prejudicial to the stated goals of the governments.

There are thus both pros and cons of these organisations. The most essential part of the NGOs is that they have brought awareness on the part of the people and shaped the formation of civil society. However, there is growing criticisms that the NGOs have become parallel governments in many cases.

In my opinion, the NGOs should play a constructive role in supporting governments and people so that scarce resources are utilised in the best possible manner. They should do their best to supplement and not supplant the role and activities of the governments that have been elected with people's mandates.

The NGOs should become a rallying point by focusing and identifying unique strengths of various countries in enhancing regional exchanges and cooperation in various fields from the perspective of pushing forward peace, cooperation and building a community of shared future for the region.

Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

I have no doubt that the SCO People's Forum will emerge as a new and vibrant non-governmental platform in identifying SCO's inherent strengths and realising full development of its potentials for the cause of international peace, harmony and development. I am sure the Forum will come out with practical recommendations and suggestions for the Qindao summit of the SCO.

To conclude, let me once again wish the First SCO People's Forum all success in its activities as I have no doubt that the new organization will act as a catalytic bridge between governments and non-governmental organizations to promote closer contacts, strategic coordination and regional cooperation for lasting peace, stability and prosperity in our region and across the globe.

Thank you

Opening Session Speech by Nurlan Akkoshkarov Deputy Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization



Your Excellency Mr. Ji Bingxuan,
Your Excellency Mr. Liu Guozhong,
Your Excellency Mr. Wang Yajun,
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It's a great pleasure to attend the First SCO People's Forum on behalf of SCO Secretariat. I would like to express my gratitude to China NGO Network for International Exchanges for its warm invitation and thoughtful arrangement, as well as the People's Government of Shaanxi Province for the hospitality and convenience.

It is the first time to convene the People's Forum within the SCO framework. Delegates from the big family of SCO came together to discuss NGO's role and mission in promoting regional

peace and stability and building a community with a shared future for mankind. This is of great significance to the region's future. This initiative reflects China's effort to promote regional development by joining the strength of governments and NGOs as SCO Chair State. It also demonstrates the goodwill and passion of NGOs from SCO countries to maintain regional peace and promote regional development.

At the SCO Astana Summit in June 2017, India and Pakistan became new SCO member states, marking a new stage for SCO's development. By far, SCO is an all-dimensional multilateral organization of diverse fields, covering 1/3 of the Eurasia continent and 44% of global

population, ranging from the Arctic Ocean in the north, India Ocean in the south, Pacific Ocean in the east and Baltic Sea in the west. Thanks to the unremitting effort of SCO member states, more countries identify with the Shanghai Spirit featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilizations and pursuit of common development, which is a paradigm for a new type of international relations. With good neighborliness, mutual trust and mutually beneficial cooperation at a high level, member states have achieved fruitful cooperation outcomes on multilateral occasions, effectively defending regional peace, security and stability, curbing regional terrorism, separatism and extremis, cracking down on selling drugs, weapons and other cross-border crimes, therefore deepening the pragmatic cooperation in trade, culture, technology, education, transportation and finance, promoting balanced regional economic, social and cultural development. We are fully confident that with new members joining the organization, SCO will gain new impetus and a brighter future, playing a bigger and more positive role in Eurasian and global affairs of the 21st century.

NGOs are an important force for people to be engaged in public affairs and promote social and economic development. Listening to people's voice, building consensus and facilitating the interaction between government and civil society is significant for solving common problems facing the region. SCO supports NGOs in its member states in enhancing exchanges and communication, as well as contributing wisdom and effort to building an environment of enduring stability, peace and security, improving people's wellbeing and promoting global economic governance. I believe your participation will surely help to solve regional problems under new scenario, so that the SCO could better serve its countries and people.

Finally, I hope delegates can take this opportunity to have in-depth discussions and pool wisdom on the theme and items of the Forum, so as to deliver fruitful outcomes.

Thank you!

(Translated by Yang Le)

Xi'an Declaration of the First Shanghai Cooperation Organization People's Forum

We, around 80 delegates from member states, observer states and dialogue partners of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter referred to as SCO), gathered in Xi'an, China on April 9-10, 2018 to attend the First Shanghai Cooperation Organization People's Forum co-organized by China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and the People's Government of Shaanxi Province and held candid and in-depth discussions on the theme of "Promoting Regional Peace and Cooperation, Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind -- Mission of NGOs". We would like to thank CNIE and Shaanxi government for hosting this forum, as well as China and relevant parties for their seriousness and support.

We recognize that in the past decade, with the joint efforts of all member states, the SCO has become an important player in modern international relations and has played an important role in maintaining regional peace and stability, promoting multi-polarization of the world and democratic international relations, and improving global governance. We reaffirm that

countries should make joint efforts to safeguard the victory outcome of the Second World War as well as international fairness and justice, and to realize regional and world peace, stability, development and prosperity. We notice that the world is undergoing profound and complex changes, which have brought both opportunities and challenges for the SCO. We are ready to strengthen solidarity and coordination among us and meet the challenges together.

We appreciate the consensus of building a community with a shared future for mankind reached during the Council of Heads of State of the SCO in 2017, which has charted the course for realizing long-term prosperity and stability of the region. We believe that NGOs can play a unique role in building bridges of communication, reflecting public opinion and forging synergy of the civil society. Therefore, NGOs are natural partners of the SCO and important participants in building a community with a shared future for mankind. We propose that,

I. Governments and NGOs carry out various kinds of exchange activities under the theme of building

a community with a shared future for mankind and raise the awareness of the public, so as to consolidate the social foundation to build a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind.

II. We uphold the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security and safeguard regional security and stability. Countries should strengthen cooperation, fulfill Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism and make joint efforts to confront traditional and non-traditional security threats so as to create a safe working and living environment for people of all countries. NGOs should make their due contribution by proactively offering suggestions and advice.

III. We carry out livelihood cooperation and strive to eliminate poverty. Livelihood cooperation should be an important field for SCO countries to cooperate, so that people of different countries can all share the fruits of development. Governments should be fully aware of the importance of poverty alleviation and take coordinated and effective measures to implement the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and advance poverty alleviation. NGOs should promote experience sharing in poverty alleviation, carry out projects cooperation and participate in the building of a poverty alleviation program encompassing multiple players.

IV. We uphold the Shanghai Spirit, advocate

cultural diversity and respect different cultural traditions, religious beliefs and values of different countries and nations so that when it comes to civilization, exchanges triumph over barriers, mutual learning triumphs over conflicts and co-existence triumphs over superiority. NGOs should proactively participate in cultural and people-to-people exchanges and play a positive role in enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between different peoples.

V. We carry out practical cooperation and improve the livelihood of the people. We should take the opportunities brought along by the Belt and Road Initiative and promote the connecting of development strategies of different countries so as to share development opportunities and realize common prosperity. NGOs should proactively facilitate people-to-people connectivity, create foundations and mobilize resources for practical cooperation and see to it that the fruits of development be shared by people of all countries.

VI. We pool together people's strength to build a platform for people-to-people exchanges. We suggest the Shanghai Cooperation Organization People's Forum be institutionalized and incorporated within the mechanism of the SCO as a constructive platform for dialogues between the civil society and the governments, in order to jointly tackle the problems and challenges faced by the SCO and promote its development.

(Translated by Wang Zhiyun)

Promote Shanghai Spirit and Spark People's Wisdom for building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind

—A Summary of the First Shanghai Cooperation Organization People's Forum

Liu Zhenzhong

The whole year's work depends on a good start in spring. On 9 to 10 April 2018, the historic city Xi'an witnessed the staging of the First People's Forum of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The forum was jointly staged by China NGO Network for International Exchanges and the People's Government of Shaanxi Province, in an aim to contribute people's wisdom to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Qingdao Summit which will be held in June 2018 by collecting people's wits, reflecting people's wishes, building consensus among the people, carrying forward Shanghai Spirit and promoting benign interaction between the government and the public. Meanwhile, the forum aimed to explore and establish a new dialogue platform for the people in coordination with the Summit, and further expand exchanges and cooperation among non-governmental organizations in the SCO region. With the theme of "Promoting Regional Peace and Cooperation, Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind

-- Mission of the NGOs", the forum consisted of plenary sessions and group discussions, and with repeatedly seeking advice from attending participants, it approved the Xi'an Declaration of the First SCO People's Forum. During the meeting, the participants actively expressed and discussed their ideas and reached important consensus. In coordination with the theme of the forum, foreign participants visited Yan'an for field investigation. The forum turned out to be a great success.

Guests from all over the world jointly undertake great initiatives

As the starting point of the Silk Road and capital of 13 dynasties, Xi'an attracted the attention of the world again. On the morning of April 9, 2018, the SCO People's Forum was staged here. More than 80 participants from 12 countries presented the forum, including Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chair of Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; Liu Guozhong,

Governor of Shaanxi Province; Wang Yajun, Vice Minister of International Department of the Central Committee of CPC and Adviser to China NGO Network for International Exchanges; Dou Enyong, Vice President of China NGO Network for International Exchanges; Madhav Kumar Nepal, former Prime Minister of Nepal; Nurlan Akkoshkarov, Deputy Secretary-General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization; Mao Vibol, Vice President of Forum of Civil Society Alliance of Cambodia; Riaz Khokhar, former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and former Pakistan Ambassador to China; Imanelly Ieva, Vice Minister of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic; Boris Guseletov, former Director of International Department of A Just Russia; and other former political leaders, and people from civil organizations, think tanks and the media of SCO member states, observer countries, dialogue-partner countries.

Ji Bingxuan pointed out in his speech that under the joint efforts of all parties, with only one dozen years, the SCO has become an influential partner in modern international relations system, playing important roles in maintaining regional peace, promoting democracy in international relations, reforming and improving global governance. Building a community with a shared future for mankind and realizing win-win and shared development is the voice and pursuit of China. The Chinese government and the Chinese people will strive for these goals. In line with the Shanghai Spirit, building a community with a shared future for mankind has become the consensus of member states of SCO. It is the common choice and pursuit of member countries to promote the further development of SCO under new historical circumstance. It calls for drawing consensus of human society and concerted efforts and participation of people of all countries.





Liu Guozhong expressed congratulations to the opening of the First SCO People's Forum. He said that as economic globalization deepens, confronting challenges hand-in-hand and seeking win-win development has become a common recognition among people of all countries. Shaanxi was a bridge and window of China's opening up in history and also a development power house arising world attention today. Currently, in the process of implementing the guiding principles of 19th National Congress of CPC, and under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era, Shaanxi is vigorously developing hub economy, port economy and flux economy, embracing a promising future. All people presented the forum is welcomed to travel around and explore cooperation opportunities.

Wang Yajun said that people-to-people exchange

was an important force driving the development and prosperity of SCO, and it was also important content of international cooperation under the framework of SCO. Under the guidance of Shanghai Spirit, the Chinese side would like to strive together with non-governmental organizations of all countries to promote regional people-to-people exchange and cooperation, thus laying a solid foundation and creating a benign social atmosphere for national relations development.

Nepal argued that the SCO has already played an important role in maintaining regional peace and promoting regional exchange and cooperation, and is expected to play a more important role in leading regional cooperation in terms of security, economy and culture. The world expects China play a more important role in this aspect and believes that the development of China will

further strengthen the force maintaining world peace and stability.

“The successful staging of the forum displayed the importance attached to strengthening people-to-people exchange by China. The SCO support social organizations of all countries strengthen exchange and contact in an effort to create a peaceful and stable environment, improve people's well-being and global economic governance”, said Nurlan Akkoshkarov.

Riaz Khokhar and other foreign representatives gave a high appraisal to the Belt and Road Initiative and the philosophy of building a community with a shared future for mankind, approved the unique role of non-governmental organizations in reflecting people's will and gathering strength. They proposed to institutionalize the forum and make it a new platform of exchange and cooperation for people of all countries under the framework of SCO.

Strive for development

The essential of Shanghai Spirit is mutual trust, mutual benefit, consultation on the basis of equality, respect diversified civilization and seek common development. Building a community with a shared future for mankind has become a consensus of all SCO members and is in line with the Shanghai Spirit. It is the common choice and pursuit of all countries to promote the further development of SCO under new historical circumstance. Therefore, this forum made in-depth discussion on four themes, namely “maintaining regional security and building a community with a shared future among neighboring countries”

“respect cultural diversity and promote people-to-people exchange” “align development strategies and strengthen regional cooperation” “eradicate poverty and improve people's livelihood”.

Security is one of the basic needs of people's survival and building a “world of universal security” is one of the important cores of creating a community of common future for mankind. Currently, international and regional situation is undergoing profound and complicated changes, with uncertainty and instability projecting, and traditional and non-traditional security threats intertwining, the SCO has, since its founding, taking security cooperation as one of its major directions. “Building a community with a shared future for mankind is the vainly hope of mankind. There is only one earth and it is the home of all human beings. We must protect environment, maintain security, prevent conflicts and have on other choice”, said Boris Guseletov. Sharipova, chief editor Friendship magazine of Tadzhikistan International Friendship and Cultural Association argued that creating a community of common future is the wisdom and a program contributed by China for resolving global issues.





Civilization becomes colorful in the process of exchange and mutual learning. Exchange and mutual learning is important force driving human civilization progress and peaceful development of the world. As a regional cooperation organization covers the largest population and area in the world, the most important job of SCO in promoting regional development and cooperation is to expand the depth and width of people-to-people exchange and build a multi-layered people-to-people cooperation mechanism. “People-to-people exchanges enhance mutual understanding between people of different countries and help them build better relationship. Every country has its unique culture and institution and only exchange could enhance mutual understanding. There isn’t good or bad culture and there is only difference between cultures. More international cultural exchange programs are expected to be established in an effort to enhance creating a community of common future for mankind”, said Mao Vibol.

It is one of the major tasks of SCO to align development strategies of different countries and reach new cooperation consensus by deepening interest integration, thus realizing

mutual development and prosperity. Since its first expansion in 2017, the gross GDP of member countries of SCO has reached one fifth of global economic aggregate. Meanwhile, member countries all shoulder tasks of development. SCO is an important platform for all countries to integrate their development strategies and implement the initiative of regional integration. Hussein, Chief Editor and Director of Islamabad Station of Pakistan Today argues that the Belt and Road initiative for regional development—vast emerging market accelerate the integration of development of all countries within this region and these countries should accelerate integration of development strategies and promote win-win cooperation.

Poverty is a “silent crisis”—it not only severely hinders the social and economic development of underdeveloped countries, but also is one of the important reasons of the current regional conflicts, terrorism and environmental degradation. Eliminating poverty is the common mission of mankind. Only in a world without poverty and with shared development, can we lead a decent life. The success experience of China in poverty eradication was highly appraised by participants of all countries presented the forum. “As a developing country, the society and economy of Nepal is underdeveloped now, but our people expect our country become a middle-income country. Nepal should learn from China because China is a good example in the region as well as the world in terms of poverty reduction”, said Madhav Kumar Nepal. “The experience of China in terms of targeted poverty alleviation is worth learning. China and Sri Lanka are expected to

further strengthen cooperation in the aspect of poverty alleviation so as to help more Sri Lanka people get rid of poverty”, said Panesservan, Operation Director of Sun TV, Tamil Media of Sri Lanka.

Frank discussion helped participants presented formed new knowledge and understanding on the new concepts of security, civilization, cooperation and development with “Shanghai Spirit” as the core. It also contributed the wisdom of people to regional peace and development.

Work together for the success of the summit

Outstanding achievements were reached in the season of fruit fragrance. Heated discussion was converted into words to facilitate the successful staging of SCO summit. April 10 marks the end of the First People’s Forum of SCO. On the closing session, Dou Enyong, Vice President of China NGO Network for International Exchanges made a concluding speech; Ji Shumin, Counsellor of Department of Eurasian Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, Boris Guseletov and Imanelly Ieva respectively delivered speeches; and Zhu Rui, Secretary-General of China NGO Network for International Exchanges presided the meeting. All participants of the forum voted and approved the Xi’an Declaration of the First SCO People’s Forum.

On behalf of China NGO Network for International Exchanges, Dou Enyong extended appreciation to the guests and representatives presented the forum and announced the consensus reached in the forum: maintain regional security

and stability with the awareness of coordination; strive to improve people’s livelihood with pragmatic cooperation; promote the integration of development strategies of different countries under the guidance of win-win cooperation philosophy; enhance diversified people-to-people exchange under the guidance of the epoch spirit of inclusiveness and mutual learning. Dou Enyong also proposed three initiatives on further promoting the role of social organizations of SCO related countries: first, non-governmental organizations should become peace envoy and contribute to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind; second, non-governmental organizations should become bridges of cooperation and contribute to regional cooperation and contribute to improving people’s livelihood; third, non-governmental organizations should become pioneers of exchange by making the most of various platforms to enhance understanding among people of different countries.

Ji Shumin pointed out in his speech that the theme of the First People’s Forum of SCO linked closely with the purpose of SCO and was therefore highly targeted. The successful staging of the forum was of great realistic significance for enriching ideas of people-to-people cooperation and innovating cooperative forms and channels under the framework of SCO.

Boris Guseletov emphasized in his speech that on the basis of respecting cultural diversity, non-governmental organizations should work together to promote the process of world multi-polarity. Imanelly Ieva said that as Kyrgyzstan will soon

hold the rotating presidency of SCO, she will report to the Foreign Ministry of Kyrgyzstan the content of the meeting and the achievements of people's forum.

After the meeting, foreign representatives went to Yan'an and working around the theme of the forum, they investigated Yang Jialing, Zaoyuan, Liangjiahe Village and Kangping Village. In Liangjiahe Village, the place where Chinese President Xi Jinping lived and worked for seven years in his early years, on behalf of China NGO Network for International Exchanges, Don Enyong presented each foreign representative the book Xi Jinping on the Governance of China. This trip deeply impressed foreign representatives and helped them understand "where did the Communist Party of China started out, how it developed and where is it going". Meanwhile, they also obtained a more in-depth understanding on Xi Jinping Thought on socialism with Chinese

characteristics for a new era.

Flowers bloom in the ancient capital Xi'an in spring. In order to enhance regional peace, stability, development and prosperity, as well as promote building a community with a shared future for mankind, non-governmental organizations from both China and abroad gathered here to contribute their wisdom and strength, as well as sowing the seeds of friendship. These seeds are bound to take root, germinate and become large trees in the process of exchange and cooperation. May the tree of friendship planted by non-governmental organizations of China and the rest of the world be evergreen!

(The author is with China NGO Network for International Exchanges.)

(Translated by Ma Jiatai)



Promote People-to-People Connectivity through Communication and Exchanges

—CAFIU Vice-President Ai Ping Visits Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro

Wang Zhiyun

At the invitation of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) of Germany, BiH Center for Promotion and Development of Belt and Road Initiative of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Green Home of Montenegro, a delegation from China Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) led by its Vice-President Ai Ping, also former Vice-Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee paid a visit to the three countries from May 3 to 12.

With the goal of commemorating the 200th

anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx and introducing the Belt and Road Initiative, the delegation met with officials and NGO representatives from Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, introduced the essence of Xi Jinping's speech at the Commemorating Conference of 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Karl Marx and made concrete actions to promote people-to-people connectivity and livelihood project cooperation.

Germany is China's largest trading partner in



Europe and the sixth largest in the world. Recent years has witnessed frequent high-level mutual visits and smooth growth of the bilateral relations. The FES, established in 1925, is the oldest and largest political foundation in Germany, also the key think tank of the SPD. At present, FES has offices in 109 countries. CAFIU enjoys over 30 years of friendship and cooperation with FES.

2018 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx. During the visit, the delegation attended the opening session of Exhibition of Commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx hosted by Trier City, opening session of exhibition by FES in the Karl Marx House as well as the unveiling ceremony of Karl Marx Statue presented by China to Trier. Mr. Ai Ping met with SPD Chairman Andrea Nahles, Federal Minister of Justice Katarina Barley, Minister-president of Rheinland-Pfalz Malu Dreyer and President of FES Kurt Beck. Mr. Ai Ping was interviewed by German media in the Karl Marx House.

On the morning of May 5, the unveiling ceremony of the Karl Marx Statue, given as a gift from the Chinese government, was held in Trier, Karl Marx's hometown. Both Chinese and German

representatives from various sectors as well as local citizens, tourists and media, altogether about 1000 people, attended the ceremony. The statue is made of bronze. It weighs about 2.3 tons with a height of 4.6 meters. It stands on a 0.9-meter base. Altogether, the statue is 5.5 meters high. It is located at Simon Church Square, in the center of Trier. "This number corresponds to Marx's birthday, May 5th", said Weishan Wu, the sculptor.

Wu not only applied a contemporary Chinese freehand way of making a sculpture, but he also added European realism tradition into the work. Because Marxism keeps developing, this inspired him to choose Marx's posture as walking to highlight Marx's identity as a thinker and a philosopher. "He (Karl Marx) walks calmly and peacefully on the road of his hometown—Trier, and walks into the world and into the future." said Weishan Wu. The statue received high praise from the representatives there from Germany. The Mayor of Trier Wolfram Leibe said, "the statue given by China as a gift has brought Karl Marx back to his homeland after 183 years". The statue, as a symbol and bridge of German-Chinese friendship, will also help to further deepen



German people's understanding of Karl Marx.

FES President Kurt Beck said that 30-odd-year exchanges between FES and CAFIU proved people-to-people exchanges can help the two peoples enhance mutual understanding and recognition as well as facilitate the growth of bilateral relations.

Bosnia and Herzegovina established diplomatic relations. Since then, the two countries have maintained smooth growth of bilateral relations. People-to-people exchanges between BiH and China have a sound foundation. As a tourist destination to China, BiH was known to Chinese households as early as 1970s mostly thanks to the famous film *Walter Defends Sarajevo*. During its visit, the delegation met with Mr. Safet Softić, Deputy President of the House of Peoples of BiH , who told the delegation that he has a brand new understanding of China after he visited China last year. China is a great country with a great civilization and undertakes sincere and practical cooperation with various countries under the principle of all countries, large or small, are equal to each other. BiH is a pearl of Europe with abundant of coal and hydropower resources. Sarajevo is where the East meets the West. These are all great assets of BiH.

The Stanari thermal electric power plant constructed by China's Dongfang Electric Corporation in Bosnia and Herzegovina was completed and put into use in 2016, as the first project using the US\$10 billion special credit line within the framework of the "16+1 cooperation", i.e. cooperation between China and 16 Central and Eastern European Countries. BiH will implement a fully visa free policy towards Chinese citizens

since May 29, 2018. It is believed that the new policy will largely stimulate tourist industry of BiH and facilitate practical cooperation and people-to-people exchanges between BiH and China.

The delegation held a symposium of "Belt and Road Initiative and People-to-People Connectivity" together with Center for Promotion and Development of Belt and Road Initiative. Over 50 delegates from major think tanks, NGOs and higher education institutes of BiH attended the symposium. Mr. Ai Ping introduced the background of the Belt and Road Initiative as well as the meaning of "five-connectivity" of the Initiative and emphasized the important role of people-to-people connectivity in promoting international cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The delegation also visited Faculty of Sinology of Eastern Sarajevo University where a junior student told the delegation in Chinese that "Chinese language is our future".

Montenegro has established diplomatic relations with China since its independence in 2006. Also a tourist destination to China, Montenegro issued visa facilitation policy towards Chinese in April 2017. Construction of the first 47-km-long South-North Highway of Montenegro started in 2017 by China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC). During the visit, the delegation met respectively with Mr. Milan Ročen, Member of the Presidency of the Democratic Party of Socialists of Montenegro and Mr. Dragan Pejanović, State Secretary of Ministry of Interior of Montenegro. The delegation held discussions with Green Home, Women's Organization,



European Movement, Association of Economists and Managers and other NGOs and think tanks of Montenegro and exchanged views on the Belt and Road Initiative and people-to-people connectivity. Association of Economists and Managers, established in 1954, is the oldest economists' association in Montenegro and quite influential in west Balkan region. The association has hosted the Milocer Forum for a consecutive of 22 years. The theme of the 2017 annual meeting of the forum was the Belt and Road Initiative and globalization.

NGO representatives and scholars of Montenegro told the delegation that ordinary people of Montenegro knew little about China and the Chinese culture, let alone the content of the Belt and Road Initiative and China's political and social system. Great potential is to be unleashed in terms of youth exchanges, joint researches,

NGO cooperation and environmental protection between the two countries.

The delegation also visited the highway construction site of China Road and Bridge Corporation and Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital in Montenegro. The highway project of CRBC, with a 687 million euro loan from the Export-import Bank of China, is the most important development project in the history of Montenegro and has profound significance to the economic growth of the country, according to President Milo Dukanović. The project will be another example of success in China-Eastern and Central Europe cooperation, after the Serbian Zemun-Borca Bridge.

(The author is with China NGO Network for International Exchanges.)

Suggestions on Advancing the Initiative of China + Visegrád Group

Yu Jin



Visegrád Group is one of the most dynamic international organizations among Central and Eastern European countries. Its members are Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. Trade between Visegrád Group and China accounts for over 70% of the total trade between China and Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), highlighting the group's importance. As Central and Eastern European countries have a more important role to play in the European Union as a result of the Brexit and the European refugee crisis and more projects will be implemented in these countries after the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, it is necessary to consider the initiative of China + Visegrád Group.

The 16+1 cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European countries is in full

swing. More concrete cooperation is necessary, though. We need to consider building a more solid and reliable platform for cooperation between China and CEE countries and between China and the EU, which not only avoids such issues as low efficiency and slow progress in project implementation as a result of multilateral cooperation, but also further optimizes overall relations between China and CEE countries, thus contributing to the development of the Belt and Road Initiative in west Eurasia.

Brexit, EU's development dilemma and changes in political thoughts in Europe offer opportunities for the development of China-CEE relations and enhanced status of CEE countries. Leveraging these opportunities will enable the CEE countries to play a more proactive role in EU affairs and contribute to overall development of China-Europe relations.

We need to take note that while nuanced changes take place in relations between the Trump administration and France and Germany, twin engines of the EU, the Trump administration is also actively seeking to develop relations with the CEE countries.

In light of the status quo of relations between China and the Visegrád Group as well as the need to promote the Belt and Road Initiative, the author hereby proposes five suggestions on advancing the initiative of China + Visegrád Group.

First, think-tanks move first. Priority should be given to the establishment of China + Visegrád Group Think Tank Association, based on which member think-tanks between China and the Visegrád Group can interact actively. Close cooperation between think-tanks will provide intellectual support for the implementation of the initiative of China + Visegrád Group.

Second, the initiative of China + Visegrád Group should align with the Belt and Road Initiative. In particular, members of the Visegrád Group should be further supported in their cooperation with China in trade and other areas. Reciprocal

economic and trade cooperation will lay a solid economic basis for the implementation of the initiative of China + Visegrád Group.

Third, the initiative of China + Visegrád Group requires active support from heads of state diplomacy, which constitutes the political basis of the initiative.

Fourth, the initiative of China + Visegrád Group relies on effective people-to-people exchanges, which is a weak link in relations between China and CEE countries. People-to-people exchanges will not only promote people-to-people connectivity in the development of the Belt and Road Initiative in the real sense, but also act as a sustained driving force for the initiative of China + Visegrád Group.

Fifth, the initiative of China + Visegrád Group needs practical and reliable strategic guarantee. China should make it clear to the EU that advancing the initiative of China + Visegrád Group represents positive development of China-EU relations. Effective implementation of this initiative will contribute to positive development of China-Europe relations and safeguard stability and unity in the EU. The initiative is a necessary re-insurance measure to achieve the above-mentioned goals.

On September 18th 2017, the Warsaw Dialogue of China-Poland Think Tanks 2017 was co-hosted by China Regional Development & Reform Institute (CRDRI) and Polish Economic Congress Foundation headed by former Prime Minister of

Poland Waldemar Pawlak. The Warsaw Consensus adopted at the dialogue puts forth the initiative of developing think-tank partnerships and sharing research outcomes. Dialogue and cooperation with think tanks of the Visegrád Group will be pursued based on equality and flexibility for the development of China + Visegrád Group think tank cooperation platform, further cooperation and coordination between think tanks of the Visegrád Group and Chinese counterparts, and the establishment and improvement of relevant mechanisms. CRDRI has engaged in extensive consultations on the Warsaw Consensus with political parties, political leaders, institutions of higher learning, think tanks and the business community in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, and received positive response.

Based on the think tank cooperation model as advocated by the Warsaw Consensus, more support should be given to cooperation between think tanks in China and CEE countries. It is hoped that relevant authorities provide research institutions in China with more information on think tanks in CEE countries and assist in establishing links with more think tanks in CEE countries. To build China + Visegrád Group Think

Tank Association, more think tanks, including national high-end ones, should be actively involved to promote exchanges, cooperation and sharing of research outcomes between Chinese think tanks and their counterparts in the Visegrád Group.

China + Visegrád Group Think Tank Association could become a pioneer in further optimizing coordination and cooperation between Chinese think tanks and their counterparts in the Visegrád Group. The think tank association could be leveraged to present to the CEE countries the outcomes of implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative and benefits to them. Building on the success of think tank cooperation between China and CEE countries, we can develop the architecture for China-Europe think tank cooperation, which will contribute to all-round development of Chin-EU relations and give think tanks a positive role to play in overall diplomacy.

(The author is Dean of the China Regional Development & Reform Institute.)

(Translated by Jin Yan)

Shanghai Cooperation Organization: New Areas of Cooperation in the New Era

Sun Zhuangzhi

In June 2018, the 18th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held in Qingdao, China, the first summit since the enlargement of SCO's membership. New membership of India and Pakistan has significantly expanded SCO's area of cooperation and increased the aggregates of economic output and resources of SCO member states, making SCO the regional organization covering the largest geographic area, the biggest population and one with huge development potential, creating a new model of Shanghai Eight cooperation. The SCO Qingdao Summit, witness to the rapid development of the organization in the past 17 years, is a milestone setting the course for multilateral cooperation with new features and in new areas within the SCO framework.

The SCO has its distinct features in the course of its development.

The SCO, a regional cooperation mechanism born and developed in the post-Cold War international environment, has all along maintained its distinct features, and made positive attempts in building a

new type of state-to-state relations and model of regional cooperation. Since its inception, the SCO has upheld the Shanghai Spirit which took shape during the Shanghai Five period, characterized by reciprocal trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity and pursuit of common development, as the basic principles and essence for multilateral cooperation on a long term basis. The SCO calls for a new outlook on security, and advocates mutual security, enhanced security through cooperation and conflict and dispute resolution through dialogues between countries in the region. The SCO upholds a new outlook on cooperation which is based on equality and mutual benefit and benefits the weak and small countries first. The SCO is committed to the principles of consensus through consultations, equality and mutual benefit among big and small nations, openness and transparency and not targeting any third party. In institutional building and cooperation, the SCO member states are able to treat each other in good faith and do their part according to their capabilities. Interests and concerns of all member states are accommodated instead of only

big nations calling the shots. Its cohesion and vitality rarely seen in other organizations are thus guaranteed.

In light of changes in regional situation and common challenges facing member states, the SCO initiates security cooperation by focusing on countering extremism, terrorism and separatism and such transnational crimes as drug trafficking, enhancing military mutual trust and intelligence sharing between member states and conducting close joint law enforcement operations. Economically, the SCO pushes for trade and investment facilitation. As huge gaps exist between the levels of economic development of member states, incremental, bilateral and multilateral approaches are taken, and a host of key sectors and key projects are identified. In terms of people-to-people and cultural exchanges, multi-sectoral and multi-departmental ministerial-level meeting mechanisms are initiated, civil groups and local governments are encouraged to enhance exchanges, and priority is given to exchanges in such sectors as culture, education, health, science and technology, youth, media and tourism. In external relations, the SCO has become an observer to the United Nations General Assembly, signed cooperation agreements with quite a few international organizations, and accepted many countries outside the region as dialogue partners, thus enhancing its appeal.

The SCO responds to internal and external challenges through enhanced self building in the new situation.

Since the beginning of the membership enlargement process in 2015, the SCO has

entered a new phase of development and witnessed new adjustments and changes. First, adjustments and changes in internal mechanisms. New membership brings with it new issues, and necessary “grinding” is needed. Second, adjustments and changes in key areas of cooperation. While the existing priority areas remain unchanged, interests and concerns of old and new member states should be accommodated in pragmatic cooperation. Third, adjustments and changes in external exchanges. On the one hand, the SCO is gaining increasing global influence. On the other, more countries wish to cooperate with the SCO or seek to join. Lastly, adjustments and changes in forms of interaction. China and Russia have played a dominant role in multilateral cooperation. As regional big powers India and Pakistan are admitted as full members and Central Asian countries such as Kazakhstan have enhanced awareness of independence, the SCO has entered a phase of diversification. Under this circumstance, it is imperative to recognize and respect differences among member states and seek more consensus on cooperation.

Another factor impacting the SCO’s development is the evolving international and regional landscape. Policies of the U.S. President Donald Trump are increasingly aggressive. America First and trade protectionism disrupt global peace and normal international order. The Islamic State in West Asia is coming to a dead end, but new issues in counter-terrorism arise as where the dangerous extremists will go and whether the civil war in Syria will escalate have become focus of world attention. Central Asian countries restart regional integration out of their own needs driven by some external force. Fundamental solutions

to the Afghanistan issue and Iran nuclear issue remain elusive and new turmoil loom large. In such international and regional environments, it is imperative that the SCO clarify its own positioning, play an active and constructive role, strive for internal unity and respond to sudden crises and challenges calmly.

Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind and the SCO's Future.

The year 2018 marks the beginning of comprehensively implementing the decisions of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. It also marks the fifth anniversary of the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative. The contours of thoughts and strategies of major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics are clearer, and China hopes to contribute more to development and stability in the region and the world at large. Chinese leaders have put forth the ideas of building a community with a shared future for mankind and a new type of international relations, chartering the course forward for the SCO's development in the years to come. Shanghai Spirit has been added new meaning under the new historical conditions. The SCO can become a template for building a community with a shared future for mankind among countries with different cultures and systems. In its course of development, China has made the most active contributions, and put forth many new initiatives and measures which are of great significance to promoting multilateral cooperation, including signing of the Treaty on Long-Term Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation between the Member States of the

Shanghai Cooperation Organization and founding of the SCO Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation Committee, the aim of which is to promote friendship from generation to generation between member states and enhance people-to-people exchanges, thus creating more enabling public opinion and cultural environment for regional cooperation.

The SCO member states and observers take an active part in the development of the Belt and Road Initiative. With friendship along the ancient Silk Road over a thousand years, they have built partnerships for reciprocal cooperation and assistance in the international landscape. During his visit to Astana, Kazakhstan in 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forth the important initiative of building the Silk Road Economic Belt. In a few years, its global impact has been felt, and huge opportunities have been offered to the SCO as an important platform for alignment of development strategies among relevant countries along the Belt and Road. The SCO of the future will not only build firm defenses of security for countries in the region and bridges for economic and cultural exchanges, but also blaze a new path to regional cooperation which will promote inclusive, green, innovative and sustainable development in member states.

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(Translated by Jin Yan)

Economic Cooperation among Countries along the Belt and Road Delivers Fruitful Outcomes

Wang Wei

Chinese President Xi Jinping, during his visits to Central Asian and Southeast Asian countries in September and October 2013, put forth the initiative of jointly building the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (Belt and Road), which has drawn extensive global attention and positive response. By December 2017, China had signed cooperation agreements with over 80 countries and organizations, and engaged in institutional cooperation on production capacity with over 30 countries. According to the UN's 2018 World Economic Situation and Prospects report, between 2017 and 2019, the world economy will grow by 3%, while South Asia and East Asia, among countries and regions along the Belt and Road, will maintain the highest economic growth globally. Economies in Eastern and Southern Europe, Africa and West Asia will see growth increase by a big margin in 2018 compared with 2017, in sharp contrast with the slowing economic growth in advanced economies. These forecasts will provide significant economic support for development along the Belt and Road, particularly the development of China-Mongolia Russia Economic Corridor, China-Indochina Economic Corridor, New Eurasian Continental

Bridge, China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

The development of the Belt and Road has entered a new stage of comprehensive and concrete cooperation. Economic cooperation among countries along the Belt and Road has displays the following features and trends:

First, ever-deepening trade and investment cooperation. Trade volume between China and countries along the Belt and Road stood at RMB 7.4 trillion in 2017, up by 17.8% and 3.6 percentage points higher than growth of China's foreign trade. Specifically, export volume stood at RMB 4.3 trillion, up by 12.1%, while import volume stood at RMB 3.1 trillion, up by 26.8%. Chinese companies made an outbound direct investment of USD 14.4 billion to countries along the Belt and Road.

Second, steady progress in implementation of major projects. Chinese companies leverage their financing, technical and expertise strengths in the implementation of infrastructure projects along the Belt and Road. Mombasa-Nairobi Railway as

the start of the railway network in East Africa has been completed and put into operation. The first tunnel along the China-Laos Railway has been completed. Phase I of China-Thailand Railway is under construction. Projects such as Hungary-Serbia Railway and Karachi Expressway have seen steady progress.

Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor, an important pivot along the Belt and Road, may make it a reality to transport oil and gas bypassing the Malacca Strait. China-Myanmar oil and gas pipeline is the largest successful joint venture project in Myanmar invested by Chinese companies. It is co-funded by six companies from China, Myanmar, Republic of Korea and India. During construction, China National Petroleum Corporation and well-known companies from India and Myanmar worked together. China-Myanmar gas pipeline (overseas section) was put to use on July 28th 2013, and by February 14th 2017, it had functioned safely and steadily for 1310 days, delivering 12.7 billion cubic meters of gas to China and 1.4 billion cubic meters of gas to Myanmar. China-Myanmar oil pipeline project is one of the oil and gas pipeline cooperation projects between the two countries. Its Myanmar section is 767 km and China section 649 km. On June 7th 2017, oil was successfully delivered to Shihua, Yunnan Province through the pipeline. Compared with the route across the Malacca Strait, this pipeline shortened the shipping distance by 1820 nautical miles, and lowers shipping risks and costs. The China-Myanmar oil and gas pipelines have brought tremendous direct benefits to Myanmar annually, including tax revenue, investment dividend, right-of-way fees, transit fees, training funds and social and economic assistance funds. The project has also trained a number of professional and increased local employment. Companies from China, Myanmar and India engaged in pleasant cooperation in and reaped positive economic benefits from many international and commercial programs on China-Myanmar oil and gas pipelines. The project has become a pioneer

in infrastructural connectivity between countries along the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

Third, expanded financial cooperation. China stepped up investment and financial activities for the development of the Belt and Road in 2017. China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China launched special lending facilities equivalent to RMB 250 billion and RMB 130 billion respectively to support infrastructural development and production capacity cooperation along the Belt and Road. The Silk Road Fund would see its funds increase by an additional RMB 100 billion. Bilateral and multilateral investment and financing mechanisms developed rapidly. Multilateral financial cooperation under the 16+1 cooperation framework between China and Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) made positive headway. The China-CEE interbank consortium, consisting of 14 policy banks, development finance institutions and commercial banks, was established. China Development Bank would provide loans for development finance cooperation equivalent to 2 billion Euros to members of the consortium in the next five years. The second phase of China-CEE investment cooperation fund was established. These funds, focusing on enterprises and upholding market-oriented operations, will provide more robust investment and financing support for the development of the Belt and Road.

By the end of 2017, ten Chinese banks had set up 68 branches in 26 countries along the Belt and Road. Over the past three years, Chinese banking institutions have cumulatively granted lines of credit worth almost USD 400 billion to and provided loans of over USD 200 billion for almost 2700 projects along the Belt and Road.

High returns on investment for economic cooperation projects among countries along the Belt and Road have drawn the investment of banks from the developed countries. LAM Yuk Wah, President of Citibank (China) Co., Ltd.,

believed that the Belt and Road Initiative would be a new strategic opportunity for the Citibank. Citibank set up overseas service centers for Chinese companies in Hong Kong, Singapore, Kazakhstan and Kenya to support Chinese companies “going global”. By leveraging the expertise of senior customer managers posted overseas and collaborating with Citibank branches overseas, these service centers would better serve

According to estimates of the International Monetary Fund, cumulative investment in infrastructure among countries along the Belt and Road will exceed 3 trillion dollars in the next five years. Policy finance and development finance alone fall far short in terms of meeting the enormous demand for capital. Social capital is not sufficient either. It is imperative that commercial banks offer credit. RMB is used in only 1.8% of international settlements. RMB transactions account for about 2% of global foreign exchange transactions, and RMB takes up just over 1% of global foreign exchange reserves. The Belt and Road Initiative presents an important strategic opportunity for RMB internationalization. Markets in countries along the Belt and Road, to further lower exchange rate risks, currency conversion cost and enhance financing reliability, have the demand for expanding the use of RMB in international transactions.

Fourth, enhanced impact of external assistance. Chinese companies have been providing assistance to their best ability to improve local people's lives in developing countries along the Belt and Road. The China-Maldives Friendship Bridge constructed with assistance from the Second Harbor Engineering Company (SHEC) of China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) is the first sea bridge of its kind in the world built on coral reefs under complex geological and rough sea conditions. The project team of SHEC started working on the project by making technological innovations. Multiple pile tests were conducted, and rounds of discussions on technical solutions held, to explore a new path

to building a bridge on coral reefs. The strength of the Chinese engineering companies is once again for the world to see as the project, started on December 30th 2015, is due to be completed in 2018.

Fifth, expansion of project contracting businesses. Chinese project contractors, leveraging their funding, technological and equipment strengths, have taken an active part in contracting business cooperation with countries along the Belt and Road, enabling the implementation of a number of major projects. In 2017, Chinese companies signed 7127 contracts with a total contract amount of USD 144.32 billion for projects in 61 countries along the Belt and Road, accounting for 54.4% of the total contract amount of external project contracts newly signed.

Two features stand out as Chinese companies compete in the project contracting market in countries along the Belt and Road. First, modes of project implementation are diversified, including simple engineering construction and the Engineering Procurement Construction mode. Second, projects cover increasingly diversified sectors, including housing construction, infrastructure projects such as port, road and railway construction, as well as projects in sectors of expertise such as oil, gas, power generation and other energy infrastructure projects.

Sixth, new developments in production capacity cooperation. Countries along the Belt and Road are making steady progress in developing economic corridors and deepening capacity cooperation in the process of developing a new type of international relations with win-win cooperation at its core.

Industry in China has completed the industrial development process of technology import, assimilation and adaptation, and indigenous innovation. World-renowned achievements have been made and capacity strengths built in such sectors as metallurgy, machinery and

architectural engineering. With the development of the Belt and Road, regions along the Belt and Road have become important Chinese partners for international production capacity cooperation. International production capacity cooperation based on countries' unique strengths will help industrial transformation in China and develop industries befitting national conditions in countries along the Belt and Road.

Take the iron and steel industry as an example. Estimates show that annual iron and steel consumption in countries along the Belt and Road stands at around 250 million tons. Twelve countries along the Belt and Road have a net import of over 2 million tons of iron and steel annually, and their per capita iron and steel consumption is still at a very low level with huge room for development. The Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park is now home to seven Chinese projects on advanced production capacity with an investment of over RMB 18 billion, including a modernized, all-process and integrated iron and steel factory with annual production of 3.5 million tons, a large tyre production base, aluminum profile processing project and an oil refining catalyst project.

Countries along the Belt and Road have a large combined population, and most of these countries are developing ones in initial stages of industrialization. Quality, services and prices of Chinese industrial goods are highly competitive and marketable in these countries. Apart from big state-owned enterprises, Chinese private businesses have also set up factories in such countries as Thailand, Egypt, Pakistan and Iran. Power transformers made by Chinese private businesses take up 70% market share in Pakistan.

International capacity cooperation in over 10 key sectors, including iron and steel, equipment manufacturing, automobiles and electronics are proceeding steadily among countries along the Belt and Road. As the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is well under way, the development of

Gwadar port is gathering steam. Such projects as a new international airport, vocational training center, modern hospitals, a coal-fired power plant with an installed capacity of 300 megawatts, and a desalination plant with a daily disposal capacity of 5 million gallons of sea water have not only improved local people's lives but also diversified industrial structure in Gwadar.

The Caspi Bitum joint venture, co-invested by China International Trust and Investment Corporation and KazMunayGas, was launched three years ago. It now processes 1 million tons of crude oil annually and produces such products as oxidized bitumen, modified bitumen and mixed oil, transforming Kazakhstan's history of heavy reliance on asphalt imports.

Made in China 2025 Initiative also has a big role to play along the Belt and Road, as it will propel international cooperation on equipment manufacturing in such sectors as high-speed railway, aeronautics and astronautics, electronic equipment and ocean engineering, generate opportunities for joint production in regions along the Belt and Road, and transform China's major exports from products to technologies, moving China up along the chain of international division of labor.

Seventh, accelerated development of overseas economic and trade cooperation parks. Industrial park is an effective means to achieve scale effects of investment and pool capital, technology, talent and information. It promotes large-scale and intensive industrial development. By March 2018, Chinese companies had set up 56 economic and trade cooperation parks in 20 countries along the Belt and Road, with an investment of over USD 18 billion.

China encourages its industrial parks "going global" and project-based cooperation in industrial parks in countries along the Belt and Road in light of the development needs of relevant countries and our capital and technological strengths, to

accelerate the development of the Belt and Road.

In 2017, China set up 19 national-level overseas economic and trade cooperation zones in countries along the Belt and Road involving four countries in Central Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa and Central and Eastern Europe. 2330 new businesses entered industrial parks, over three times the figure in 2016. USD 1.14 billion taxes were paid to host countries, doubling the figure in 2016. Companies in the industrial parks mainly work in such sectors as agriculture, trade logistics, light textile, home appliances, iron and steel, construction materials, chemical engineering, automobiles, machinery and minerals.

China-Belarus Industrial Park is a landmark project for cooperation between China and Belarus. It will be developed in three phases. Phase I project covers an area of 8.5 square kilometers, out of which 3.5 square kilometers is the core area. Twenty-one resident companies come from China, Belarus, the U.S. and Europe. Key sectors in the industrial park include such hi-tech and emerging industries as electronics, telecommunications, biotechnology, fine chemistry, machine manufacturing and new materials, in an effort to boost development of advanced manufacturing.

Hisense Industrial Park in South Africa manufactures over 500,000 televisions of different specifications, which are not only consumed in South Africa but also exported to over 10 countries, including Canada, Uganda, Nigeria and Cameron. This industrial park has created employment for 15000 local people and cumulatively paid USD 28 million taxes.

Touchroad Djibouti Special Economic Zone set up by the Touchroad Group, a private Chinese business, is one of the earliest special economic zones established in Africa. The Djibouti Government has given the Touchroad Group exclusive management and administrative rights, enabling it to build airport and port, ship repair

center and financial and telecommunications centers in the special economic zone. Touchroad Group is not simply an investor; rather, it is the manager and administrator of the special economic zone.

In order to achieve common development and prosperity with countries along the Belt and Road, the following steps should be taken:

Take overseas economic and trade cooperation parks as pillars, build platforms connecting financial institutions and Chinese companies, encourage banks of all types, commercial banks in particular, to accelerate operations in countries along the Belt and Road, and facilitate commercial banks in playing a positive role in fundraising, resource allocation, supportive services and risk assessment; promote cooperation between domestic financial institutions and multilateral counterparts in major investments to reduce the social and economic risks in our outbound investment; step up efforts in policy communication and alignment of technical standards with host countries on such areas as investment protection, labor use and work visa, seek help from host countries in addressing difficulties facing Chinese companies in developing and managing industrial parks, direct more external assistance to places where industrial parks are located, and help build more utilities and welfare projects; provide technical support to such countries as Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Ethiopia in areas of fiscal, tax and financial reform, poverty alleviation, urban management, desertification control, river and lake pollution treatment, and safety monitoring and controlling for win-win cooperation by leveraging our technological strengths.

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(Translated by Jin Yan)

People-to-People Cooperation with Cambodia Moving Forward

Wang Lei

Sino-Cambodia friendship has gone through the test of changes in international situation and remained unfading. 2018 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relationship between China and Cambodia. When Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen visited China in May 2017, Chinese President Xi Jinping called on the two countries

to take the opportunity of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relationship, strengthen exchanges in terms of governance, tourism, culture, education and youth, thus promoting the steady, lasting and better development of bilateral relations. Responding to the initiative of the CPC Central Committee, China NGO Network for International Exchanges



(CNIE) has played an active role in promoting exchanges and cooperation between Chinese NGOs and their Cambodian counterparts. In September 2017, the Memorandum on Promoting Exchanges and Cooperation between Sino-Cambodian NGOs was signed between CNIE and Cambodian NGO Alliance Forum (CNAF)-a pivotal organization for Cambodian NGOs. From then on, under the concerted efforts of both sides, the people-to-people pragmatic cooperation between the two countries has made tremendous progress.

On May 8 to 12, 2018, at the invitation of CNAF, CNIE organized 20 Chinese social organizations, including China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD), China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation and Overseas Chinese Charity Foundation of China, visited Cambodia to carry out people-to-people pragmatic cooperation and exchanges. This event was unprecedented in both civil philanthropy cooperation with Cambodia and the whole development process of the internationalization of Chinese social organizations in terms of number of participating organizations and enthusiasm of political society.



Extensive Exchanges for Seeking Cooperating Partners

On May 9, CNIE and CNAF jointly staged the conference for Sino-Cambodian NGO cooperation and exchanges. More than 60 people, including Liu Kaiyang, Deputy Secretary-General of CNIE, Gary Vehid, President of CNAF, and representatives of 20 Chinese and 28 Cambodian civil social organizations participated in the conference and exchanged ideas in their own groups and areas, namely children education, health care and eco-friendly sciences and technologies.

The burning sun and hot weather of Phnom Penh could not hinder the exchange enthusiasm of participating representatives-the conference lasted

for more than three hours and the participants parted from each with a sense of reluctance. Representative of CFPD said that they have carried out a dozen of public programs connected with people's livelihood in Cambodia since 2012. Schools, clinics and rural development facilities aided by CFPD can be seen in many provinces and municipalities, such as Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Sihanoukville and Kampong Speu. CFPD is willing to strengthen cooperation with local counterparts and carry out more programs which can effectively meet the demands of Cambodian people. Meanwhile, CFPD is willing to share its work experience in Cambodia with more Chinese brother organizations, so as to join hands with more Chinese organizations and contribute their strength and wisdom to people-



to-people cooperation and exchanges between China and Cambodia. Gary Vehid pointed out that this conference offered a platform and new opportunities for civil social organizations of both countries to strengthen cooperation and exchanges. Cambodian NGOs look forward to strengthening cooperation with civil society of China and welcoming more Chinese capital, technologies and programs to take root in Cambodia, thus promoting the development of Cambodian society and benefiting more local people.

Launching Programs that Benefit Local People

Under the coordination of CNIE and CNAF, five public-welfare programs, namely Sino-Cambodia “Silk Road friend” happiness spring, parcel of love, illuminate the future, the Mekong River Sun Village and the Mekong River brightness action was launched in Ba Tian County of Takeo and Breaza County of Phnom Penh on 10 and 11 of May. The content of these programs include donating 200 deep wells, 10,000 bags and stationery sets, 1,000 solar table lamps, raincoats and bilingual books, offering 300 off-net solar power-supply equipments and 200 free cataract surgeries.

Despite the hot weather, Upe, Governor of Takeo, students and residents of Takeo and Phnom Penh benefiting from these programs spontaneously participated in the launching ceremony of these programs. When they know that the fund of these

programs all came from the donation of kind-hearted people and enterprises and these programs will be implemented within one year, they expressed their appreciation to Chinese people. Wherever Chinese representative went, local residents all spontaneously offered self-planted young coconut to Chinese friends for relieving thirst and summer heat.

Signing Cooperative Contract to Enhance People-to-People Cooperation

On May 11, CNIE and CNAF jointly staged the contract signing ceremony for Sino-Cambodian NGO cooperation programs on people's livelihood. 10 Chinese social organizations including CFPD, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, Beijing Charity Foundation, Shenzhen International Exchange and Cooperation Foundation signed 11 cooperative contracts or memorandums with CNAF, with a total volume of 6.5 million RMB yuan and involving diversified areas, such as people's livelihood, medical care, education, environmental protection, child protection and volunteer exchange.

Ben Chhin, Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia, Li Jie, Counselor of Chinese Embassy in Cambodia, Liu Kaiyang, Deputy Secretary-General of CNIE, Gary Vehid, President of CNAF and more than 150 representatives from 48 Chinese and Cambodian civil organizations attended the signing ceremony. Ben Chhin delivered an exuberant speech to the ceremony. He pointed out that the staging of signing

ceremony is a concrete achievement of NGO cooperation between Cambodia and China. These programs will not only help local people improve their livelihood and reduce poverty, but also make great contribution to enhance affinity between people of two countries.

After the signing ceremony, guests present quaffed champagne to celebrate. Ben Chhin spontaneously proposed toast to Chinese representatives. The atmosphere on spot was enthusiastic and friendly.

Shakespeare once said, “all the past is a prelude”. It also applies to the Sino-Cambodian cooperation in areas important to people's livelihood which is standing on a new starting point. From a handful of social organizations worked overseas dispersedly, to coordinated work involving

social organizations from Beijing, Shenzhen and Yunnan Province, and warm welcome and spontaneous facilitate from local organizations and local people-this transformation makes us feel the great desire of people of two countries to strengthen cooperation and seek development, feel the strong impulse of affinity between people of two countries, and feel the great vitality of the proposal of “building a community with a shared future for mankind” raised by the Communist Party and government of China. May the flower of Sino-Cambodian people-to-people cooperation forever in bloom!

(The author is with China Foundation for Peace and Development)

(Translated by Ma Jiatai)



CAFIU Delegation Attends a Consultation with NGOs at UN Headquarter

Ma Jingjing

On 22 June 2018, Deputy Secretary-General Liu Kaiyang led a CAFIU delegation to attend a consultation with NGOs at the UN headquarter in New York. Initiated by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), this consultation is the first time for the UN to solicit opinions from NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC regarding the evolving relationship between NGOs and UN. Over 50 international NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC attended the Consultation and voiced their opinions. CAFIU is the only Chinese NGO that is invited to attend and address the Consultation.

UN Calls for Your Contribution

Early this year, CAFIU received a questionnaire sent via email from the UN, asking the contribution of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC in four aspects:

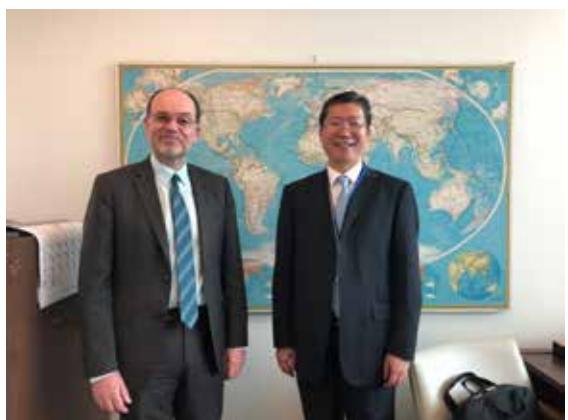
1. What are the most efficient modalities for NGOs to contribute to the United Nations policy-making, be recognized and be influential in these processes?
2. What should be done to provide better support to NGOs during the process of obtaining consultative status with ECOSOC?
3. How can the participation of NGOs from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in UN's work be increased?

4. Once the consultative status is granted to organizations, how best can NGOs access the opportunities given to them to take part in UN processes?

CAFIU and other Chinese NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC held in-depth discussions on the four questions. We think that the questionnaire and following consultation show that ECOSOC is paying increasing attention to the role of NGOs in global governance. NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC should actively air their views so as to play a bigger role in the UN.

Expressing China's Views at the Consultation

The consultation is chaired by Mr. Dotta, President of the UN NGO Committee and Counselor of the Uruguay Mission. The consultation took place in the UN headquarter in New York, and some





NGOs attended the consultation from Geneva and Mexico via video conference system. According to the UN, every speaker is invited to speak for no more than three minutes. Mr. Liu Kaiyang focused on two points in his speech. First, we appreciate the attitude of UN towards the role of NGOs. In today's world, NGOs are playing an increasingly important role in preserving world peace, promoting economic and social progress and facilitating cross-culture dialogues. Shouldering more responsibilities in global development and governance, NGOs can play a unique role in advancing UN 2030 SDGs. It is necessary to strengthen the interaction between UN and NGOs and facilitate the participation of NGOs in UN processes. Second, China and many developing countries have witnessed considerable increase in the amount of NGOs. Currently there are over 800,000 registered NGOs in China who have become important forces in contributing to national development of all respects in the new era. NGOs of developing countries represent the interest of their peoples, and stand ready to participate in international cooperation and global governance via UN and other multilateral occasions. He called for UN to provide more convenience for NGOs from developing countries to participate in UN programs, and give priorities to cooperating with NGOs from developing countries, so that the NGOs are widely and well represented in UN processes. What he said has been commonly agreed by the representatives.

Forging Closer Ties between NGOs and the UN

At present, there are more than 5,000 NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC across the world. The consultative status is the recognition of the UN for the work and influence of NGOs, as well as an "admission ticket" for NGOs to participate in UN processes. Recent years have seen frequent interactions between NGOs and UN, making positive contribution to sound and sustainable development of global governance. ECOSOC hopes to improve the consultation mechanism to promote further interactions between NGOs and UN, so that NGOs can take part in the UN processes in a wider scope and at a higher level. Many NGOs have expressed their willingness to attend UN conferences and forums, offering their solutions and wisdom to UN processes. Some NGOs from developing countries and countries with economies in transition point out that despite their awareness of the importance of forging closer ties with UN, they sometimes face difficulties in applying visa and raising fund. They look forward to more assistance from the UN so that NGOs from developing countries and countries with economies in transition can better participate in UN processes.

(The author is with Chinese Association for International Understanding.)

Visit of Russian and Central Asian Civil Organizations to China

Liu Dan

From April 8 to 18, 2018, at the invitation of China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), a delegation from neighboring countries visited China. The 19-member delegation was composed of representatives of civil organizations, think tanks, media and former political leaders from five member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, namely Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The first stop of the visit was Shaanxi Province. In Xi'an, the delegation attended the First SCO People's Forum jointly organized by CNIE and the People's Government of Shaanxi Province, and experienced the Silk Road culture. In Yan'an, the delegation attended the thematic symposium "The International Vision of Yan'an", visited revolutionary sites of Yangjialing and Zaoyuan, and villages of Liangjiahe and Kangping.

In Beijing, the delegation met with Dou Enyong, CNIE Vice President and former Assistant Minister

of International Department of CPC Central Committee; listened to presentations by Chinese experts from Department of Social Science of Party School of the Central Committee of CPC and Academy of Macroeconomic Research of NDRC on topics such as the 40th anniversary of reform and opening up, the status quo of China's social and economic development, the Belt and Road Initiative and new development philosophy of China; and visited Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban) and Zhongguancun Inno Way.

People's Forum-New Platform of People-to-People Exchanges

Delegation members all believed that the first SCO People's forum catered to the global development and epoch trend, united the civil social force of countries within this region and helped different countries join hands to confront complex international situation and economic de-globalization. "Before the convening of SCO

Qingdao Summit, CNIE established this new platform of people-to-people cooperation and exchanges for countries in this region to express desire of people for peace and security, carry out friendly cooperation, and seek for common development”, said Syzdykov, authorized representative of national headquarter of Union of Kazakhstan Citizens and Vice President of Kazakhstan Institute of Finance, Ministry of Finance of Kazakhstan. The Xi'an Declaration of 1st SCO People's Forum—the outcome document of the forum proposed to make the most of Belt and Road Initiative to carry out pragmatic cooperation, so as to improve people's livelihood and realize shared development and common prosperity, which voiced the willingness of people of all countries. Bubkhotnov, researcher of Academy of President Strategy and Trans-Regional Affairs of Uzbekistan argued that carrying forward the “Shanghai Spirit”, CNIE organized the 1st SCO People's Forum, which opened a new channel for people of all countries to exchange with each other and is beneficial for them to strengthen understanding, reach consensus, share development achievements, maintain regional peace, justice and equality, and realize common development. Boris Guseletov, former Director of International Department of Just Russia and Deputy Director of Partisan Politics Research Center of Department of European Affairs, Russian Academy of Sciences pointed out that enrolling India and Pakistan into its new members meant that the development of SCO has entered into a new stage. The 1st SCO People's Forum was staged in a timely manner and was in accordance with the trend of the world. Representatives should introduce to people outside

this region the information of the forum and SCO, and make the forum an institutional one which is beneficial for people of all countries taking part in the future construction and development of the forum, thus ensuring the strong vitality and extensive influence of the forum.

Probe into the Driving Force of China's Reform and Development

From April 11 to 12, the delegation visited Yan'an, China's revolutionary site, Liangjiahe, the village in which Chinese President Xi Jinping once worked for seven years in his early years, and Kangping, the village prominent in poverty reduction. Delegation members said that by traveling to the cradle of China's revolution and the important starting point of President Xi Jinping's life, they felt the context of birth and development of Communist Party of China and Xi Jinping Thought, got a clearer recognition of where the CPC comes from and where it will go, how it takes the interests of people as that of its own and leads Chinese people in overcoming tremendous difficulties to get rid of poverty and become powerful, and had a more profound understanding of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. In the reform practice and exploration over the past 40 years, the Communist Party of China has led Chinese people in finding a development path which is appropriate to the national situation of China. The unremitting efforts of China to respect global cultural diversity, advocate democratization of international relations, contribute to multi-polarization of the world and promote building a new-type international relations featuring mutual respect, equality, justice and win-

win cooperation is admirable. Sanayev, Director of Russia Rogachev Sino-Russia Research Center and Director of Development Prediction Center of Asia-Pacific Region said, despite living in remote rural areas of Northern Shaanxi Province, the first generation of CPC leaders such as Mao Zedong and Chou Enlai paid close attention to domestic and international situations, pondered over the future of the country, and based on the concrete situation of China, under the guidance of right thoughts, led the Party and the people build the new China and seized one victory after another, which is admirable. In Liangjiahe Village, the place where Chinese President Xi Jinping lived and worked for seven years in his early years, Don Enyong presented each foreign representative the book Xi Jinping on the Governance of China. Delegation members said that this book was an authoritative book on Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and was the best textbook for thoroughly and profoundly understand the development ideas, development path and domestic and foreign policies of China. Some delegation member hoped to bring more pieces of Xi Jinping on the Governance of China back to share with friends working in the field of China research; and some delegation members, when visiting the mill, tailoring shop, sales points, and blacksmith's shop opened under the leadership of Xi Jinping in his youth, bought souvenirs like trowels. In Kangping Village, standing in the clean and tidy country-flavor farmyard and fruitful vegetable greenhouse, delegation members not only felt the flavor of traditional China, but also witnessed the achievements of new countryside construction and targeted poverty alleviation.

Join Hands to Deepen Cooperation on People-to-People Exchanges

Delegation members argued that adhering to open regional cooperation spirit and principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration, the Belt and Road Initiative embodies the respect of China to countries involved. With its major content of better connectivity in policy, infrastructure, trade and financial services, and closer ties between the peoples of various countries, this great project not only forms communities of common interests, common responsibilities and common destiny featuring political mutual trust, economic integration and cultural inclusiveness among countries involved, but also is conducive to bringing into full play the market potentials of all countries, improving their social and economic development as well as people's livelihood, and realizing multi-dimensional, independent, balanced and sustainable development of all countries. They look forward to, under the framework of SCO, uniting the force of people of all countries, promoting people-to-people exchanges and cultural mutual learning among people of all countries, and deepening cooperation and exchange in different areas, thus contributing wisdom and strength to the Belt and Road Initiative and the building of a community of common future for mankind. When visiting the Confucius Institute, some delegation members purchased learning material such as Chinese textbooks and VCDs.

(The author is with Chinese Association for International Understanding.)

(Translated by Ma Jiatai)

Visit of Neighboring Countries Civil Organizations to China

Xiao Lan

At the invitation of China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), a 19-member NGO delegation headed by Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, former Nepalese Prime Minister visited Shaanxi, Shanghai and Beijing from April 7-18, 2018.

In Shaanxi, the delegation participated in the 1st Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) People's Forum co-organized by CNIE and the Shaanxi Provincial People's Government and made a field trip to Yan'an. The delegation attended the seminar on Yan'an's Perspective on International Cooperation, visited some revolutionary sites like Yangjialing, Zaoyuan and the site of the 7th National Congress of the Communist Party of China(CPC) as well as Liangjiahe Village where General Secretary Xi Jinping spent 7 years as an educated youth going and working in the countryside.

In Shanghai, Mr. Fu Jihong, Deputy Director of Shanghai Municipal Office for Foreign Affairs met with the delegation, briefing on Shanghai's recent development in economic and social fields and progress in the building of "five centers". The delegation visited the Xuhui District Administrative Service Center, the Oriental TV Studio of Shanghai Media Group and Shanghai Urban Planning Museum.

In Beijing, Mr. Dou Enyong, Vice President of CNIE and former Assistant Minister of International

Department of the Central Committee of CPC (IDCPC) met with the delegation, elaborating on Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era and this year's "two sessions" (the 1st Meeting of the Thirteenth National People's Congress of China and the 1st Meeting of the Thirteenth National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference). The delegation listened to the presentations on China's development in economic and social fields in the last 40 years since reform and opening-up and China's targeted poverty alleviation strategy made respectively by the experts from the Department of Scientific Socialism of the Central Party School and International Poverty Reduction Center in China.

Expressing Recognition of and Wish to Contribute to the Building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind

Many delegation members affirmed the great significance of Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era and the philosophy of building a community of a shared future for mankind and expressed the willingness to make due contributions. Mr. Mao Vibol, Adviser to Cambodia's Prime Minister Hen Sen, Secretary of State, Vice-Chairman of Civil Society Alliance Forum held that the 19th CPC National Congress was a meeting of monumental significance at which Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese

Characteristics in the New Era was put forward and the development strategy and goals for the future decades were set forth, which were beneficial to the country's long-term stability and development and would make extraordinary impact on China and the world at large.

Mr. Riaz Khokhar, former Foreign Secretary and former Pakistani Ambassador to China pointed out that China had made eye-catching achievements in the last 40 years since reform and opening-up. The coming 30 years would be a crucial period for China. Being the 2nd largest economy in the world, China played an important role in international affairs. As countries were interdependent and complementary at present, China would become increasingly important as time went by. It would always draw the world's attention how China would better perform its international responsibility and advance the building of a community of a shared future for mankind after it accomplished its development. Mr. Amrit Bohara, Member of the Central Committee Standing Committee and Chairman of Central Disciplinary Commission of CPN (UML) remarked that the philosophy of building a community of a shared future for mankind was inspiring. General Secretary Xi Jinping called on the international community to jointly try hard to build a world with common prosperity and free from poverty. At present, As one of the poorest countries, Nepal faced many challenges such as backward economic development, poverty alleviation, environment protection and public health. China merited acclaims since it was committed to helping other countries develop while it was focusing on its own development.

Some members agreed that due to the popularization of information technology and internet in the globalised era, countries were more and more interrelated. Therefore, the deeper interdependence entailed the building of a new type of relationship

between countries and societies. Today's world was faced with a great many challenges, no one country was able to address them on its own, even if the most developed and powerful country could not handle them alone. We lived in a global village and needed to understand and accommodate each other. No problems could be resolved by means of confrontation or conflict. Countries should cooperate and coexist with each other. China's proposal of building a new type of international relationship and a community of a shared future for mankind manifested the unique thoughts and wisdom of the Chinese people.

Speaking Positively of China's Development Achievements and Hoping to Learn from China's Experience and Strengthen Mutual Cooperation

Mr. Riaz Khokhar said that he had special sentiments toward China and kept close watch on China's development since he had been Ambassador to China. During the visit, he saw China's positive changes with his own eyes. Earth-shaking changes had taken place in cities' outlook and people's lives. The urban construction was so rapid that he could hardly recognize some city areas of Xi'an and Shanghai although he had been there for a couple of times. People's life was digitalized with e-commerce and e-finance more prevalent, thus making the daily life more convenient. He believed that China was striding on the right path to development and its experience was worth learning by other developing countries.

Mr. Amrit Bohara said that China had never retrogressed since it adopted the policy of reform and opening-up in 1978. By contrast, it took bolder reform moves and opened wider to the outside world. He once visited China in 1981. Seeing tremendous changes since reform and opening-up during this visit, he highly praised China's achievements scored under the CPC's leadership and expressed keen wish

to conduct exchanges of experience in governance with the Chinese counterparts

Mr. George Ivor Hugo Cooke, Deputy Director of the Bandaranaike Center for International Studies (BCIS) of Sri Lanka said that it was admirable that China maintained an average annual GDP growth rate of 7.1% in the past 5 years and lifted 680 million people out of poverty. China's express railway network ramified all over the country not only made people travel more conveniently, but also strengthened links among various regions. Besides, China's contribution to global economic growth in the last 5 years reached 30%, demonstrating that China's development strongly pushed forward the world economic development. President Xi Jinping not only continuously pushed forward reform, but also advocated for building a new type of international relationship based on mutual respect, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, which was surely beneficial to the whole world. Mr. Cooke also thought that the CPC had explicit visions of the country's future development and was ready to further deepen reform and opening-up by adapting to the ongoing changes throughout the world. China's development goals were very important to the world as its economy was closely linked with the world economy.

Mr. Abrar Hussain, Resident Editor of Daily Pakistan Today, Islamabad remarked that Pakistan and China were all-weather friends and the partnership was based on mutual respect and trust. Pakistan and China carried out fruitful cooperation in various fields over time. In the last few years, both sides implemented the new project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor within the framework of the "Belt & Road Initiative" (BRI). The BRI was future-oriented and would bring along peace to the world. It was hoped that we would deepen bilateral cooperation via this project and realize win-win

outcome.

Approving Institutionalization of the SCO People's Forum and Looking Forward to Deepened Exchanges and Cooperation with CNIE

The delegation members all agreed that the convocation of the 1st SCO People's Forum was timely and achieved remarkable result, thus opening up a new channel and erecting a new platform for people-to-people exchanges and cooperation within the SCO framework. They expressed thanks to CNIE for sponsoring the Forum which was a pioneering and hoped that CNIE would continue to play a leading role in making the SCO People's Forum institutionalized. Mr. Vibol and Mr. Khokhar expressed the willingness to make due contribution to the future development of the Forum.

Mr. Vibol emphasized that CNIE and Civil Society Alliance Forum of Cambodia had a number of similarities. They were both large umbrella organizations with many important NGOs in various fields as members. In the future, both sides could expand exchanges in the areas of common interest and strengthen mutual learning.

Mr. Khokhar was familiar with a few major NGOs in Pakistan. He was willing to help establish long-term partnership between those NGOs and CNIE. Leading members of some institutes such as Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution(IICR) expressed the wish to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with CNIE as early as possible to carry out exchanges and cooperation on a regular basis.

(The author is with Chinese Association for International Understanding.)

Building Bridges from the Heart of Europe

—Introducing the Hungarian-Chinese Friendship Association (HCFA)

Zombory Klara

Friendship can be a fragile thing, especially when divided by a thousand miles. However, in a small country in the heart of Europe, a tiny but enthusiastic group of people managed to overreach the decades and create a community where like-minded people and cultures meet.

This latest event being a book launch event of the publication edited and published by HCFA, and sponsored by the Embassy of the P.R. China in Hungary. Its title is Beautiful Arched Bridges – The Remembrance of Chinese Personalities to Hungary (日月桥 ---- 中国人的匈牙利记忆), and the book to be presented is the intellectual offspring of the association and friends, it includes 24 stories by prominent Chinese personages who have

contributed to the greatest extent to the bilateral cultural, educational and art exchanges between Hungary and China. It is a bilingual edition, the essays can be read both in Chinese and Hungarian, and among the authors one can find ambassadors, professors, scientists, correspondents, literary translators, artists etc. from different generations. The stories do not just tell us the personal journey of some of the most successful businesspeople residing in Hungary, who also did great efforts in the field of mutual understanding of our people, but also dates back to the times of the 50's, when the first group of the Chinese scholarship students arrived to Hungary. An artist who is now the CEO of a successful sport shoes company turning his focus on arts once again, a Chinese doctor running

a health supplement company or the founder of local Chinese media – they are all here to recount their stories in person. The book is also the child of a group of Sinologists and translators who rendered the stories into Hungarian and nurtured the text until published, the editor-in-chiefs are the president of the Hungarian-Chinese Friendship Association, a renowned





literary translator, Klára Zombory, and a university professor, Gergely Horváth, “pillar” of HCFA, whose mother, a famous linguist taught Hungarian language to the generations of the Chinese people in Hungary. Zhiliu Chen, a former ambassador, was the chief intellectual contributor to the compilation of the book from the Chinese side, but all together more than 40 people contributed to this edition, so it was a real cooperation and teamwork between Hungarian and Chinese people, how a Chinese saying stands: 涓涓细流，汇成大海 The small rivulets converge in the great sea.

Similar occasions are numerous for the Association. This has not always been like this, but re-energised by new leadership and rapidly growing membership, the star for the Association will only shine brighter, especially with the intensifying interest towards China and Chinese culture owing to the ambitious Belt and Road Initiative.

The Hungarian-Chinese Friendship Association boasts a long history, being one of the oldest civil organisations in Hungary dealing with cross-cultural relationship building between Hungary and China. During those times, similar associations were established to nurture relations with other Socialist countries, however, the majority of them became completely abandoned with the change of regime in 1989. Few remained active or have been totally reorganised, such as the Hungarian-Chinese

Friendship Association. The Hungarian-Chinese Friendship Association fortunately overcame historical changes by maintaining a tiny, but engaged community of people somehow connected to China, mostly by having studied or worked there.

It was founded in 1959, 10 years after the establishment of diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China, chaired by professors of Sinology. Unfortunately, due to political reasons the activities were reduced to nearly nothing after 1963, but in the summer of 1988, the Association underwent reorganisation and reactivated with an even larger membership consisting not exclusively of Sinologists, but journalists, scientists or engineers who shared the experience of having been to China and having been enamoured with the culture.

China is the focal point of the Association’s activities. Building a community on common interest is one of the main objectives of this well-renowned organisation, participation criteria only being: be interested in China, Chinese culture. Each month, members gather at the usual venue, Budapest-based House of Nations, in the heart of the city, and invite a speaker to come up with a novel and interesting topic about China. This can be anything, from Chinese traditional arts to history or literature, ethnic minorities, archaeology - members are excited to learn and discuss anything China-related. Speakers merely pose as ignition to heated debates on the aforementioned topics, since a well-prepared membership will keep chirping excitedly about what they have just heard.

They also join together for events like book launch ceremonies – such as Jidi Majia’s poetry collection or the beautiful album of the Han stone reliefs dating back to the Han-dynasty –,

concerts by Chinese artists, exhibitions or the annual celebrations for Chinese New Year. HCFA also takes an active part in the organization of bigger scale professional events, for example the Association was one of the key organizers of the “1st CEE Countries – China Literary Forum” held in Hungary in May 2016, which 2nd conference will be organized in China this year. HCFA also takes active role in the popularization of Chinese educational and cultural events of different institutions. Due to the professional basic of the new presidency, we have plenty of plans in the field of the media as well, for example with the financial support of different institutions we just started a new series, the Door openers – Interviews with the Masters of Sinology, which tends to be a report series with renowned Sinologists. For many years, the Association was the meeting place for the elderly who lived in China during the Socialist era. However, in the last few years, trends seem to favour the younger generation as well. With a booming interest in China and Chinese culture, many decide to start learning the language or study a course at university, eventually somehow crossing paths with the Association or its members at China-related events. This is a fortunate trend for all – the Association needs new members to diversify membership and raise awareness, while newly joined members have the honour to listen to the stories of people who had experienced a China so completely different from the one they have seen.

The Association is committed to nurture and support Sinology in Hungary, promote Chinese culture in Hungary and mutual understanding. For its activities and achievements, the Association is

recognised both in China and Hungary and enjoys the support from both Hungarian and Chinese institutions and individuals. It is a platform for

cross-cultural dialogue, focusing on the very essence of culture, arts, words, people. Therefore, the Association strictly maintains political neutrality and is proud to place its ideas and events on a higher ground, that of bringing closer two nations, two people, two countries.

Recognition comes in many forms, mainly in the form of new members and growing awareness and support, but it is also worth mentioning that the Hungarian-Chinese Friendship Association was the only civil organisation representing Hungary at the 1st Conference of the NGO Cooperation Network held in China in 2017.

The Association’s newly elected leadership consists of women only – and they will definitely hold up half the sky for the Association. The president being a literary translator and avid lover of Chinese literature, while among the vice presidents we can find a researcher, two interpreters and a former cultural diplomat now television owner, the Association is destined to serve as a bridge between two cultures – a bridge reaching from the heart of Europe beyond the Great Wall.

(The author is President of Hungarian-Chinese Friendship Association)



Take the Unique Advantage of Red Cross Society of China to Enhance People-to-People Connectivity among Countries along the Belt and Road

Hai Liman

Within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, the Red Cross Society of China has actively carried out international cooperation programs to enhance people-to-people exchanges and strengthen people-to-people connectivity, thus playing a more and more important role in International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It is especially so since Chen Zhu, President of Red Cross Society of China was elected Vice President of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) one year ago. During this period, Chen Zhu guided the development of Red Cross Movement with the idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and actively promoted the construction of new international relations. He visited countries stricken in war, such as Lebanon and Iraq, to learn about humanitarian needs of local people, thus effectively promoting the humanitarian aid of Red Cross Society of China in countries alongside the “Belt and Road”, and strengthening people-to-people bond between China and related countries.

I. Establish the Belt & Road Fraternity Fund and Shape “Belt and Road” Brand Programs

In February 2017, Red Cross Society of China established the B & R Fraternity Fund, in an effort to strengthen cooperation and exchange with Red Cross Societies of related countries, cultivate brand programs in terms of people's livelihood, and strive to improve the living conditions of vulnerable groups. Till now, the B & R Fraternity Fund has raised a total fund of 67 million RMB yuan. Under the support of the fund, Red Cross Society of China has carried out the following programs.

1. China-Pakistan Emergency Treatment



Corridor

This program was launched in 2017. In cooperation with Red Crescent Society of Pakistan, this program was aimed at building an emergency medical care system integrating medical service, disaster response and capacity building along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, thus serving local people. Chen Zhu, President of Red Cross Society of China, Sun Weidong, Ambassador of China in Pakistan, and high-rank officials of Pakistan unveiled the nameplate for the emergency center. Red Cross Societies of both countries also signed cooperation memorandum, with the major content of contribute to “Belt and Road” and jointly establish the China-Pakistan Emergency Treatment Corridor. Hereafter, Red Cross Society of China equipped the emergency center with ambulances and medical and office equipments. It also dispatched a 13-member overseas medical aid team, which located in the emergency center for offering medical service and personnel training. By the end of March 2018, the medical aid team had totally offered service of 732 person*times for patients of both countries, and carried out medical examination for 260 pupils of Fazil Primary School and staff of Gwadar Port. Currently, the first group of team members has completed their mission and second group of team members had departed for Gwadar Port and finished work transfer. The establishment of China-Pakistan Fraternity Emergency Center in Gwadar was the starting point and demonstration site of China-Pakistan Emergency Treatment Corridor, and the entrance of overseas medical aid team of Red Cross Society of China was of symbolic significance-both contributed to the laying of a solid foundation for

further promoting the programs of China-Pakistan Emergency Treatment Corridor.

2. Aid Program for Children with Congenital Heart Disease

In 2017, in cooperation with Red Crescent Society of Afghanistan and Red Cross Society of Mongolia, Red Cross Society of China launched the “Journey of the Angels”-“Belt and Road” humanitarian aid program for children with congenital heart disease, planning to offer free treatment for 100 patients for each country.

The medical team of Red Cross Society of China, neglecting the danger of terror attack and war, went to Afghanistan twice for ascertaining children with congenital heart disease. Till now, 46 Afghanistan children have received free surgery in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China and this program was warmly welcomed by the people and government of Afghanistan. Lula Ghaney, wife of Afghanistan President met with the medical team during their visit and expressed appreciation to Red Cross Society of China and Chinese people on behalf of the people of Afghanistan. She said that the relation between Afghanistan and China are just like brothers or sisters, and the programs carried out by Red Cross Society of China further demonstrated the friendship between people of two countries. During the implementation of the program, Eklil Ahmad Hakimi, Finance Minister of Afghanistan visited Xinjiang to see the children receiving treatment.

After visited Mongolia for ascertaining children with congenital heart disease, Red Cross of China has offered free surgery treatment for 53 Mongolian

children in Inner Mongolia and Beijing. President Chen Zhu visited Beijing Anzhen Hospital of Capital Medical University to see these children. The successful implementation of the Mongolia event turned out to be a good start for cooperative medical assistance between China and Mongolia.

3. The Syria Program

At the request of Red Crescent Society of Syria, Red Cross of China started the program of donating two mobile hospitals in 2017. With the functions of mobile medical treatment and remote medical treatment, mobile hospitals could offer comprehensive medical service for local people, covering basic medical treatment, surgery, physical examination, disease ascertaining and medical transporting. Each mobile hospital was composed of two buses and two ambulances. The buses were equipped with operation compartments,

biochemical tests, X-rays, B-mode ultrasound, defibrillation, electrocardiogram equipments, and information systems, enabling doctors to carry out remote consultation and real time communication.

Project team dispatched by Red Cross Society of China made field investigations on the humanitarian service spots of medical care, water supply and artificial limbs supporting serving Syria refugees and other homeless people. The delegation was warmly welcomed by local people and relevant parties. Staff of Red Crescent Society of Syria said that in the eyes of Syria people, the Chinese people have always been helping the Syrian people with sincerity and kindness and they are the real and trustworthy friends of us.

4. Hemodialysis Project in Bengal

At the invitation of Red Crescent Society of Bengal, Red Cross Society of China donated eight hemodialysis machines and established the first hemodialysis center in the public medical system of Bengal. In addition, Red Cross Society of China dispatched medical team to Dhaka, capital of Bengal, offering training for local doctors and guiding the operation of the hemodialysis center.

5. The Program of “Volunteers on Wheels”

In order to encourage voluntary service and help vulnerable groups, Red Cross Society of China and the IFRC jointly launched the Volunteers on Wheels program in May 2017, in an effort to offer one million bicycles for 1 million Red Cross volunteers worldwide, expand the coverage of humanitarian service, and grind out the “last





mile” of humanitarian service. Currently, the first batch of 500 bicycles has been donated to Red Crescent Society of Malaysia, and bicycles is been delivering to 16 countries in ASEAN, Middle Asia and the European regions. 20,000 bicycles is planned to reach the hands of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society volunteers worldwide, making the program an important symbol of the family of international Red Cross Societies, and enabling love on wheels be distributed to all directions and five continents with the facilitation of the Belt and Road initiative.

II. Facilitate Government Departments in Carrying out International Humanitarian Assistance

As an important member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in recent years, Red Cross Society of China, actively in coordination with relevant departments such as Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Commerce, participated in international emergency humanitarian relief related with major natural disasters and regional conflicts, and carried out all forms of international assistance programs. In 2017, entrusted by Ministry of Commerce and Ministry

of Foreign Affairs, and in coordination with material assistance offered by government, Red Cross Society of China dispatched international rescue teams to earthquake-stricken areas of Ecuador and flooded areas of Sri Lanka. Rescue teams completed the disaster relief tasks efficiently and were highly appraised by the governments and people of adversity-affected countries, thus shaping a sound image of China in terms of international humanitarianism. In addition, via the modest-volume emergency assistance mechanism jointly established with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Red Cross Society of China offered financial assistance in the form of spot exchange to disaster-affected countries at the shortest time.

Under the support of Ministry of Commerce, Red Cross Society of China organized six sessions of capacity building training for Red Cross Societies of developing countries and one session Sino-African Ministers' Workshop in 2017-213 representatives from Red Cross Societies and related government departments of 28 countries took part in the training. Red Cross Society of China also distributed humanitarian goods with the total value of 10.9 million RMB yuan to Red Cross Societies of Ukraine, Malawi, Sri Lanka,

Madagascar and Maldives.

By actively applying for special fund from Ministry of Foreign Affairs raising humanitarian aid funds, and in cooperation with Red Cross Societies of 10 countries, namely Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uganda and Ethiopia, Red Cross Society of China carried out community development programs, covering public health, disaster prevention and relief, first aid training, blood donation publicity, livelihood programs and capacity building. Catering to the needs of grass-root and ordinary people, this program won the recognition and favor of local Red Cross Societies and people. Red Cross Society of China also participated in the post-disaster reconstruction project in Nepal, and is aid-constructing a disaster preparedness warehouse for Red Cross Society of Nepal, so as to improve its disaster response ability.

III. Key Areas of Future Work

1. Participate in Asia-Pacific Conference of IFRC

In coordination with China-ASEAN Expo, Summit of Red Cross Societies of ASEAN Nations and Minister Forum of Red Cross Societies of Asia-Pacific Nations will be respectively held in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Beijing in September 2018, in an effort to establish a multi-lateral dialogue mechanism and communication platform with Red Cross Societies of ASEAN and Asia-Pacific Nations, and discuss with participating Red Cross Societies on future directions of cooperation.

2. Continue the Cooperation Programs with Red Cross Societies of Key Countries

In this year, Red Cross Society of China will continue to actively promote key assistance projects jointly carried out with Red Cross Societies of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Syria and the IFRC. Via the support of funds such as Lancang-Mekong River Cooperation Special Fund, South-South Cooperative Assistance Fund, Special Cooperation Fund for Asian Friendly Countries, as well as self-raised humanitarian fund, and under the framework of “Belt and Road”, Red Cross Society of China will carry out community comprehensive development programs with National Red Cross Societies of regions of Lancang-Mekong Valley, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Africa and Middle Europe, continue to support the post-disaster reconstruction projects carried out by Red Cross Society of Nepal, and actively explore the NGO-centered foreign aid model of “going abroad”.

3. Focus on the Needs of Middle East and Neighboring Countries

Middle East is not only the worst-hit area of international humanitarian crisis, but also one of the areas under the management of Vice-President of the Asian Region of IFRC. In this hot spot, Red Cross Society of China should not be absent. Instead, it should hold high the banner of humanitarianism, and make its due contribution to the resolving of humanitarian crisis in this region. Under the framework of IFRC, Red Cross Society of China will mobile domestic resources and support the humanitarian work in Iraq carried out

by all parties, and improve the medical conditions of Iraq, which is urgently needed in reconstruction. Red Cross Society of China plans to donate mobile hospitals, child's nutrition package and medical equipments to Red Crescent Society of Iraq, so as to improve the medical equipment of Iraqi Red Crescent Society and satisfy the needs of Iraq people in terms of medical service. It also plans to, via offering hardware and software such as artificial limbs, volunteer bicycles and technical training, help Iraqi Red Crescent Society improve its comprehensive capacity in terms of carrying out social service programs. Meanwhile, Red Cross Society of China will promote in-depth cooperation with neighboring countries such as North Korea, Mongolia, Afghanistan and Myanmar, in an effort to enhance people-to-people bonds via programs of medical care and people's livelihood.

4. Preparing the Construction of International College of Red Cross

Red Cross Society of China and Soochow University plans to jointly construct International College of Red Cross. International College of Red Cross is the world's first teaching and research institution specialized in talent training, theoretical research, cultural communication and academic exchange of International Red Cross Movement. It will adopt the latest technology of the age of mobile Internet to reduce the cost of transnational education.

(The author is Division Chief, Office of Bilateral Affairs, Red Cross Society of China)

(Translated by Ma Jiatai)



Chief Minister of the Japanese Embassy in China, Noriyuki Shikata, talks about China and contemporary China-Japan relationship

On July 6, Wen Desheng, editor of the magazine, interviewed Chief Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission, Noriyuki Shikata, of Japanese embassy in China. The interview mainly focused on the Chief Minister's views on China and the contemporary China-Japan relationship. The main content is as follows.

Q: Have you ever been to China? As far as I remember, when the last time we met in person, the main topic we talked about was the earthquake disaster that struck Japan, as well as China's aid to the disaster affected areas. We sincerely hope that the life of the people in the disaster-impacted areas have recovered already in this day and age.

A: My first visit to China was in 2006 as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's entourage. Ever since then, I have come on business trips to China many times due to my official duties as I work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and was also seconded to Prime Minister's Office. I was also in charge of the investment agreement negotiations and consultations among China, Japan and South Korea as well as of China-Japan relations. In addition, I am grateful to have had the opportunities to accompany Japanese leaders visiting China at different times and attending 'The Summer Davos Forum' held in Dalian in the fall of 2011, for instance.

In May 2017, I was part of a Japanese delegation, led by the Secretary-General of the Liberal Democratic Party, Mr. Toshihiro Nikai attending



the First Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, during which we got a great chance to bilaterally meet President Xi Jinping. I assumed my current post to work for the Japanese Embassy in China at the end of September last year. I have been acquainted with many Chinese friends in Lianyungang, Shanghai, Xiamen, Wuyishan, Fuzhou and other cities in the context of participating in such meetings as the exchange mechanisms of the ruling parties from China and Japan, as well as Boao Forum for Asia (BFA).

Recently, I accompanied Secretary-General of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, Toshihiro Nikai who visited Chengdu and attended the 10th anniversary event in commemoration of the

Wenchuan earthquake, during which the in-depth exchanges and discussions on the experience of disaster reduction and prevention were conducted by the two sides. China offered helping hands to Japan as soon as the violent earthquake struck East Japan. We would like on behalf of disaster-affected people and ourselves to express our heartfelt gratitude to the people of China and their kind-and-amicable assistance. The lives of the people in the disaster-impacted areas have fundamentally restored ever since.

Q: This year is China's reform and opening-up 40th anniversary. As a foreign friend, can you talk about your opinion and experience in combination with what you see and hear?

A:I highly appreciate China's unprecedented economic achievements in human history in the past 40 years since the reform and opening-up. Memories flash back to the time when Mr. Deng Xiaoping visited the Matsushita Electric Corporation in Japan, he wished Japanese enterprises would be willing to invest in China and that encouragement has been actively responded to by various Japanese enterprises.

Meanwhile, the Japanese government has also engaged in it by providing China a high level support with official development assistance (ODA), which is a clear demonstration of Japan's willingness to firmly support China's reform and opening-up policy. The remarkable development and achievements of China has been quite astonishing from the perspectives of other countries.

China's relationship with the international community has changed, which requires the construction of new international relations between China and the world as a whole. It is clear that some deep-seated concerns emerged the surface from the current China-US trade conflicts in the context of the rapid economic growth of China.

We do believe that it is of great importance to build up a brand new relationship between China and Japan, in order to make joint efforts to address the challenges of global issues, to be able to offer developing countries a helping hand and to cooperate to solve the problems faced by the third countries.

Q:The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China laid out two-stage development plan. By 2035, we will have developed our society into a moderately prosperous society in all respects, upon which we are to develop China into a strong and modern socialist country by the middle of the 21st century, as well as to realize the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation. What is your regard on this? What kind of views do Japanese people hold on the development of China?

A:China has set the medium and long term national development goals. We expect China, the world's second largest economy in globe, is willing to contribute more to the prosperity of the region and the world. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stated in his response to the Road and Belt Initiative, some essential elements, such as openness, transparency, economic rationality, and the financial bearing capabilities of recipient countries, have to be guaranteed.

Recently, China-Japan relations have been improving gradually, and China will attract more and more attention from Japan in the future. During Premier Li Keqiang's visit to Japan, a consensus was reached by the two sides stating that a joint effort shall be made to promote and enhance people-to-people exchanges and economic cooperation in third countries, especially in developing countries.

Including the countryside in Japan, more Chinese tourists are warmly welcome to visit Japan. As far as Japanese enterprises are concerned, a huge number of middle income groups in China can generate tremendous business opportunities for

many Japanese companies. They will reevaluate the Chinese market and economic situation with positive views. For example, China now takes the leading role in mobile payments services in particular by Wechat and Alipay among others.

In the past, Japanese companies felt that China had little to learn from, but today both sides feel the need to learn from one another. Recent public opinion surveys also show a gradual improvement in public opinion polls on both sides.

Q: What other aspects of China has impressed you? Which fields in China do you believe that there is still room for improvements?

A: Since I assumed office, I have been to Shanghai, Fujian, Hainan, Dalian, Chengdu amongst other places, where the development stage of the cities has impressed me most. The urban construction in the developed coastal areas is impressive. However, many more challenging issues resulted from rapid development, such as urban pollution and traffic congestion. They have been getting more urgent and serious.

Now, the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the government are working hard to solve those problems. Time flashes back to the 70s of the last century, when Japan also suffered from serious pollution, the extent to which the environmental condition has changed for the better after effective efforts were implemented by the government. Cooperative activities have been carried out by the sister cities between China and Japan to map out the solutions to those lingering concerns.

Besides, I have paid attention to the development of the construction of the newly designed areas of the Xiong-An. Hebei province has expressed a willingness to expand the field of cooperation for smart cities and environmental protection, meanwhile, we are also considering how we can cooperate with each other.

The enthusiasm level is high among communities concerned. In this regard, ongoing projects at Kashiwa City in Chiba Prefecture can be used as a good model for smart city construction, which is developed by Mitsui Fudosan. The top priority is to set up environmentally friendly communities that facilitate both work life and social life in a balanced combination. Kitakyuushu City's demonstration garden is also well known for its energy-saving and environmental protection through its reuse of recycled resources.

In addition, the city was designed to be environmentally friendly for the elderly to enjoy their life as well as by being surrounded with easy-to-shop stores promoted by civil business partnership groups. Those stores provide daily administrative services for the residents as well as convenience on logistics and rescue services when a disaster strikes.

Q: This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Peace Treaty between China and Japan. Looking back at the past and right into the future, what is it that shall be valued most by both sides from your point of view?

A: President Xi Jinping has put forward an important concept of "new era". The relationship between China and Japan should also be launched into a new era, under which the multi-dimensional exchanges, discussions and mutual learning can be strengthened for the youth.

Q: It can be seen now that fewer Japanese people are traveling to China, people-to-people interactive activities between China and Japan are much rarer in comparison with what used to be. Is there any way to improve those issues raised?

A: Premier Li visited Japan this year, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to China is expected to happen later this year. We are planning to invite President Xi Jinping to have a state visit to Japan, though it is likely to be realized next year. The

normalized bilateral relations should be achieved by the two countries through “Three Steps”, and therefore to further motivate more active exchanges among the two peoples.

This year marks as the 40th anniversary of the Treaty for Peace and Friendship between China and Japan. And I hope that NGOs/civil organizations are willing to carry out more cultural exchanges. I myself have been quite busy these days because of participating in and enjoying a variety of activities for promoting China-Japan friendship.

We are happy that more exchanges have been happening and flourishing in various fields. For instance, we are willing to warm up and activate more exchanges among China, South Korea and Japan by lining up three Olympic Games, i.e. the 2018 South Korean Winter Olympic Games, the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and the 2022 Beijing Olympic Winter Games.

The reason why the number of Japanese tourists has been decreasing in China might be due to air pollutions they are concerned about. As witnessed by myself, those pollution issues have been gradually getting ameliorated and apparently improved. On the other hand, some are afraid of “whether or not China welcomes us?”

Q: Chinese people sincerely hope that Japan can remain on the path of peaceful development, but are more concerned that some politicians could steer Japan towards replaying history once too often. Do you think those expectations are realistic?

A: In August 2015, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivered a speech in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the World War II, which contains his own basic thought on this issue. There is no need to worry about Japan returning to the old track, because the total cost for Japan's defense expenditures is only amounting to 1% of GDP, which is quite rare in the world.

There is no interest in engaging in war in Japan after World War II, and the road to peace is the common will of the Japanese people as well. I believe that the younger generation can gradually eliminate the misunderstandings through effective communication and exchange.

Q: What is your greatest expectation for the future development of the China-Japan relations?

A: It is vital for young people to communicate in multi-dimensional context. With regard to studying abroad, many Chinese students have chosen to study at Japanese universities and graduate schools, and speaking of the graduate schools in Japan, almost half of the students are Chinese students in contrast to a smaller number of Japanese students studying in China. In this respect, more hard work is needed.

I believe a huge potential does exist between us in getting a chance to exchange more students, cultivate talents in concerted efforts to better understand each other. With the rising status of China on the international stage, Japanese have to build a mixed team of experts whenever working with Chinese people in order to have mutual understandings deepened in a holistic manner.

Q: What kind of comprehensions do you have for China's NGOs? How can the characteristics of Japan's NGOs be described?

A: Although I do not have much knowledge on China's NGOs, I do think grass-roots organizations are essential, and welcome China's grass-roots organizations to do more activities. It is very important for NGOs to carry out international exchange activities, which need to be cultivated and developed. Japan's NGOs, which have strong sense of independence, keep a certain distance from the government.

Editor's Note: *China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) is China's largest federation of non-governmental organizations involved in international exchanges. In order to share the latest news of member organizations and related organizations, and promote mutual learning of all organizations in terms of international exchanges, from 2018, we will collect and publish information and stories of CNIE member organizations in each season. All organizations are encouraged to contact with us and share their good practice in terms of international exchanges.*

Latest News of International Exchanges

On April 9 to 10, the First People's Forum of Shanghai Cooperation Organization was held in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province. The forum was jointly staged by China NGO Network for International Exchanges and the People's Government of Shaanxi Province. More than 80 participants attended the forum, including former political leaders and people from civil organizations, think tanks and the media of SCO member countries, observer countries, dialogue-partner countries.

Centering around the theme "promote regional peace and development, create a community with a shared future for mankind: the mission of non-governmental organizations", participants made in-depth exchanges on the forum. The Xi'an Declaration of the First SCO People's Forum was approved.

April witnessed the China-US Young Scholars Dialogue organized by China Federation of Industrial Economics. US scholars from National Committee on American Foreign Policy, Johns

Hopkins University, Program of Latin-America and the World under Inter-American Dialogue, Trivium China Consulting, Private Equity International, Center for Chinese and American Studies and The RAND Corporation, and Chinese experts from Chinese Electronics Standardization Association, CRRC Corporation Limited, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences discussed on topics such as cooperation in terms of manufacturing sectors between US and China.

On April 17 to 26, a delegation of China Education Association for International Exchange headed by President Liu Limin visited Spain, Belgium and France. This visit will strengthen the educational exchange and cooperation between China and the above three countries, the UNESCO and the European Union under the framework of Sino-French and Sino-European high-level people-to-people dialogue. In France, Liu Limin met with Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, introduced to her the Chinese educational

achievements achieved during the past 40 years since reform and opening up and the development in recent years, and invited her to present the 2018 China Annual Conference for International Education & Expo.

On April 22 to 24, the first centralized training of capacity building platform of “Chinese NGOs’ participation in South-South Cooperation and contribution to the 2030 agenda” was held in United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) China. Jointly organized by China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges and UNDP, the training was aimed at encouraging Chinese NGOs to actively take part in South-South Cooperation, promoting mutual understanding, cooperation and exchanges between the people of China and the rest of the world, and contributing to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 45 representatives from 26 social organizations nationwide participated in the training.

On April 23, the China-Cambodia exchange camp themed “promote the all-round development of workers and strengthen capacity building of labour unions” under the framework of “Belt and Road” people-to-people exchanges of labour union of China was launched in Beijing. In November 2017, the All-China Federation of Trade Union and the Forum of Federation for Civil Society Organizations of Cambodia signed the Memorandum of Workers’ Exchange and Cooperation between China and Cambodia in the first cooperation network forum of NGOs from countries alongside the Belt and Road. The camp was the first event under the framework of the Memorandum. This camp will last to April 29 and participants will visit Beijing and Jiangsu for carrying out exchange activities.

On April 23 to 25, the Latin-America Tourism

Conference of World Tourism Cities Federation was held in Bogota, capital of Columbia. This conference was an international tourism conference targeted at one region, which was jointly organized by World Tourism Cities Federation and the Municipal Government of Bogota. More than 200 representatives from nine countries, namely China, Columbia, Peru, Argentina, Panama, Brazil, the United States and Ecuador presented the meeting. This is the first time for World Tourism Cities Federation to organize an international tourism conference targeted at one region in Latin America. It is also a beneficial exploration by a China-based international organization to respond to the “Belt and Road” initiative.

On April 24, the international department of All-China Environment Federation convened the conference of Documentary of Climate Change Conference. Representatives of Shanghai Environment and Energy Exchange, Global Energy Internet Development and Cooperation Organization, China Champions for Climate Action, China Youth Climate Action Network as well as the media such as ifeng.com and BTV presented the meeting. The recording of official documentary of UN Climate Change Conference will start in May. It will first finish the recording of the conferences of Bonn and Poland within the year and present them on the spot of 2018 UN Climate Change Conference.

On May 8, the “Cambodia brightness action & opening ceremony of the second bright action” under the framework of Lantsang-Mekong River bright action was staged in Duanhua School of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Sponsored by China Public Diplomacy Association and organized by Overseas Chinese Charity Foundation of China, Aier Eye Hospital and Eye Care Foundation, in May 6 to 13, the Lantsang-Mekong River bright action organized two medical teams for

Phnom Penh and Sihanouk of Cambodia as well as Vientiane and Naji Shawan of Laos, offering service such as eye health examination, eye health education course, spectacles donation. These activities attracted the participation of 3,400 people and about 20% of them received spectacles donation.

On May 9, the Federation of Cyber Social Organizations of China was founded in Beijing. It was the first national coordinated and centralized social organization voluntarily formed by cyber social organizations. There are 300 founding members, including 23 national cyber social organizations and 277 local cyber social organizations. In its founding conference, the federation launched the Initiative of Integrating On-line and Off-line Communities and Promoting the Building of Internet Power, calling on members actively participate in cyber international people-to-people diplomacy, strengthen dialogue and cooperation with international internet institutions, promote the building of global internet sharing and governance platform.

On May 10, the Symposium of Sino-Africa Science & Technology Cooperation under the framework of the “Belt and Road” was held in Zhejiang Normal University. More than 80 people presented the meeting, composed of Chinese scholars and experts as well as people from scientific circle of South Sudan, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Zambia. In 2016, the Research Center of Africa Science & Technology Affairs of Zhejiang Normal University was listed into the first group “Belt and Road” cooperation platform programs for international science & technology organizations by China Association for Science and Technology. The Center has established the database of Africa science & technology organizations, and has formed a series of influential achievements typified by Annual Report on Africa Science & Technology

Affairs.

On May 11, the “Silk Road on finger-International Female Handicraft Development Forum” jointly organized by All-China Women’s Federation and the People’s Government of Shaanxi Province was staged in Xi’an. With the theme of “New Era, New Silk Road, New Women, New Development”, this forum attracted the participation of more than 160 guests and craftsmen from countries and regions alongside the Silk Road. They made in-depth exchange on three topics, namely “female handicraft and cultural heritage” “female handicraft and international exchange” “female handicraft & entrepreneurship and employment”.

On May 13 to 20, the delegation of China Law Society headed by Vice President Zhang Mingqi attended the Eighth St. Petersburg International Legal Forum in St. Petersburg and the Sixth International Science and Practice Conference themed “IT and Law (2018 informationization of law) in Minsk, and carried out rule of law exchange activities in an aim to strengthen pragmatic cooperation on rule of law. The delegation introduced to foreign counterparts the significance of “Belt and Road” initiative and the achievements in related areas since the proposing of the initiative five years ago, thus strengthening understanding, friendship and trust, as well as enlarging consensus and cooperation.

On May 14, China Region Development & Reform Institute signed strategic cooperative frame agreement with 2020 Foundation of Romania Black Sea Organization. The two sides will carry out in-depth exchange on the aspects of Sino-Romania relations, the “Belt and Road” initiative, 16+1 cooperation, cooperation between China and Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization. They also initiated the establishment of “China + Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

think tank dialogue mechanism and platform”, in an effort to enhance cultural understanding among people of both sides. In the contracting ceremony, they also organized dialogue between think tanks.

On May 16, the first Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Women's Forum organized by All-China Women's Federation opened in Beijing. The theme of the forum was “unite the force of women and promote common development”. More than 200 people attended the meeting, mainly political leaders, responsible persons of women organizations, scholars and experts from SCO member countries, observer countries, dialogue-partner countries, as well as representatives of Embassies of SCO countries in China, the SCO Secretariat, and UN related institutions. The representatives carried out discussion and exchange on three topics, namely “women and innovative development” “women and the beautiful world” “women and mutual beneficial cooperation”.

On May 16, under the joint efforts of the UN Association of China, the coordination office of the Grand Canal cultural belt construction of Jiangsu, the municipal government of Yangzhou and World Historic and Cultural Canal Cities Cooperation Organization, the 2018 Cooperation Conference of Old Towns alongside World Historic Canals was staged in Yangzhou, Jiangsu Province. The theme of the conference was the “sustainable development of Old Towns alongside World Historic Canals”. More than 300 people presented the meeting, mainly representatives, scholars and experts from over 70 historic canal towns.

On May 16 to 21, the 2018 training course for young volunteers for UN & reserve talents of international voluntary service jointly organized by Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Beijing Municipality and Beijing Volunteer Service Federation was held in Beijing. Via the

training, 60 volunteers become reserve talents of international voluntary service. Since 2007, the Municipal Committee of Communist Youth League of Beijing and Beijing Volunteer Service Federation, in cooperation with UNV and CICETE, has been carrying out cooperation projects on international voluntary service.

On May 19 to 20, the first World Acupuncture Forum & Exchange Conference of Traditional Medicine Industry under the framework of “Belt and Road” Chinese Traditional Medicine and Acupuncture Exhibition organized by World Federation of Acupuncture-Moxibustion Societies was held in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina. This conference was jointly sponsored by Forum of Chinese Traditional Medicine of Overseas Chinese, World Federation of Acupuncture-Moxibustion Societies, China Medical Pharmaceutical Material Association and World Federation of Service Trading of Chinese Tradition Medicine, and organized by Argentina Chinese Acupuncture Culture Society. More than 500 acupuncture experts and representatives of Chinese traditional medicine companies from 18 countries and regions presented the meeting.

On May 25 to 27, the 2018 World Manufacturing Convention jointly staged by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, the People's Government of Anhui Province, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Industry Federation of Germany and Global Alliance of SMEs was held in Hefei, Anhui Province. With the theme “Embrace the Global New Industrial Revolution with Innovative Manufacturing”, there will be a series of activities under the convention, including forums, industrial connectivity, program promotion, exhibitions. More than 3,000 people attended the meeting, including government officials, executives of

manufacturing businesses, scholars and experts of all countries.

On May 27 to 29, the 2018 Beijing International Forum jointly organized by Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Beijing Association for Science and Technology, the Municipal Committee of Communist Youth League of Beijing and the People's Government of Xicheng District was held in Beijing. With the theme "promote people-to-people friendship and strengthen affinity between the people", the forum attracted the participation of 80 people from social organizations of nearly 30 countries, including the United States, Argentina, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Japan and South Korea, as well as another 200 representatives from China, foreign embassies in China, Beijing offices of international organizations, foreign experts and students living in China.

On May 27, the "package donations activities for kids" organized by China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation was held in the South-West Region Surkhet of Nepal. The 781 bags donated via this activity will facilitate the strengthening of relations between cooperating communities of China and Nepal and the implementing of cooperative programs between two sides. The package donation program has now lasted for nine years and has benefited over 5 million children of under-developed regions of China. In 2016, the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation extended coverage of the program to Nepal, and more than 4,000 Nepal kids of earthquake-stricken areas have felt the warmth from Chinese people.

On May 28, the China Trade Union "Belt and Road" People-to-People Exchange & SCO Vocational Skill Exchange Camp opened in Beijing. Representatives from 18 SCO related countries gathered together and probed into

vocational skill development of staff of SCO member countries. This event is one of the important measures of China in performing the duties of its rotating presidency and implementing the consensus of strengthening people-to-people exchange reached by the Astana Summit. Activities of the camp will be staged in Beijing and Shandong Province. Responsible persons of International Department of the Central Committee of CPC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, All-China Federation of Trade Union and State Administration of Radio and Television presented the opening ceremony.

On May 28, the "Belt and Road" Environmental-Friendly Technologies Promotion Conference jointly organized by Dragon Design Foundation, China Information Industrial Design Institute and Green Design Institute was staged in China National Convention Center. Members of "Belt and Road" green innovation round table mechanism issued the Beijing Initiative, in an effort to continually strengthen communication and exchange with science & technology associations of "Belt and Road" countries and promote pragmatic cooperation. More than 100 representatives, coming from All-China Environment Federation, High-Tech Transformation Center of Ministry of Science & Technology, China Office of UNEP as well as overseas students from "Belt and Road" countries, presented the conference.

On May 29, the Third Overseas Chinese New Media Forum was held in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. Themed "Integrating the New Epoch: The Mission and Responsibility of Chinese Media", the forum was staged by Overseas Edition of People's Daily and the People's Government of Hangzhou Municipality. More than 300 people, composed of responsible persons of 165 overseas Chinese new media from 53 countries and regions, renowned scholars and experts, journalists participated in the forum and carried out discussion

and exchange on topics such as “introducing new-epoch China and deliver positive energy” “innovative development of Hangzhou” “AI and the future of new media”.

On May 29, the 5th Meeting of China-CEEC Higher Education Institutions Consortium themed “Strengthening China-CEEC Educational Cooperation and Cultivate Innovative Talents” was held in Shenzhen University. Presidents of 24 CEEC universities and 110 Chinese universities presented the meeting. Representatives of education departments of all countries, Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban), China Scholarship Council and China Education Association for International Exchange delivered speeches respectively, sharing practical experience on promoting educational cooperation between China and CEEC. The website of exchange platform of China-CEEC Higher Education Institutions Consortium was also launched on the meeting.

On May 30, the 2018 Beijing International Symposium on Science Popularization Methodologies jointly organized by Beijing Association for Science and Technology and Beijing Municipal Education Commission was held in Beijing. This symposium was joined by science popularization experts from the United States, Australia, Thailand, South Africa, Germany and Czech. This symposium is one of the active measures taken by Beijing Association for Science and Technology after it joined the non-governmental organization cooperation network for countries alongside the Belt and Road, thus effectively promoting the affinity among the people and scientific exchange among scientists. Marielza Oliveira, Director of the UNESCO Office in Beijing sent a congratulatory letter to the meeting and China NGO Network for International Exchanges offered great support to the symposium as a supporting entity.

On May 31, the SCO Media Beijing Forum jointly organized by China Public Diplomacy Association, the Beijing Municipal Information Office and Radio Beijing Corporation was held. Representatives of 6 Beijing media, namely Radio Beijing Corporation, Beijing Daily, BTV, Beijing Evening, Beijing Youth Daily and www.qianlong.com and 13 mainstream media of 8 countries, such as Tass of Russia, The Indian Express, Pakistan Independent News Agency, the Hovar State News Agency of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan National Radio and Television Corporation carried out discussion on the theme “integration, innovation and win-win cooperation”.

Late May witnessed a young volunteer delegation of Beijing visited Nepal and Thailand attending the “Belt and Road” international volunteers’ camp and carrying out publicizing job. This is the first such delegation dispatched by Beijing. Themed “voluntary community”, the camp aims to integrate international resource of voluntary service, connect them with voluntary service team of universities based in Beijing, accelerate the training and development of international young volunteer team, build new-type partnership and coordinating platform for volunteers, reserve voluntary service talents for the 2022 Beijing winter Olympics, and create a good atmosphere of international exchange. The camp obtained support and facilitation from Nepal Youth Federation, Ministry of Youth and Children of Thailand and many voluntary service organizations and research institutions.

On June 1, the First Media Summit of SCO opened in Beijing and Chinese President Xi Jinping sent the summit a congratulatory letter. Themed “Carrying forward Shanghai Spirit and Open the New Epoch of Media Cooperation”, the summit launched the First Media Summit of SCO Initiative of Strengthening Media Cooperation

and Exchange, and signed a series of cooperation contracts and memorandums on media cooperation and exchange. More than 260 representatives, mainly responsible persons of department of media affairs and mainstream media as well as related sectors of SCO countries, presented the opening ceremony.

On June 1, the 2018 World Green Design Forum Yangzhou Summit opened. More than 100 representatives from China, South Korea and other countries gathered and planned green development. On the summit, Yangzhou signed Memorandum of Strategic Cooperation with World Green Design Organizations and other organizations, working together to promote green tourism in Yangzhou. Adopting the philosophy of efficiency and pragmatism, the forum focused on local industries of Yangzhou and promoting the implementation of cooperative achievements. During the summit, some facilitating activities were held, such as the forum of green daily chemical industry and forum of green baby and children's garments.

On June 5 to 14, a delegation of China Society for Human Rights Studies headed by President Qiangba Puncog visited Spain, Italy and Austria. During the visit, the delegation extensively got in touch with government departments, parliaments, national human rights institutions, think tanks, China-related friendship associations and media of three countries, introducing the great progress and development ideas of human right over the past 40 years since reform and opening up, especially that after the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. Counterparts of three countries appreciated the achievements of China in terms of human rights and the contribution of China to the cause of international human rights.

On June 7 to 8, the 9th International Infrastructure Investment & Construction Forum sponsored

by China International Contractors Association and Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute was staged in Macao. Themed “Cultivate New Momentum of Development, Enhance Infrastructure Development and Connectivity”, this forum probed into the ways new development momentum in terms of infrastructure development and international cooperation via the methods of innovation, technological upgrading, pattern transformation to promote the infrastructure development and connectivity of the “Belt and Road”. More than 1,800 representatives, from political, business and financial circles of 66 countries and regions as well as over 20 international organizations attended the forum.

On June 7, Xiong Meng, Vice-President and Secretary-General of China Federation of Industrial Economics met with Karunasena Kodituwakku, Ambassador of Sri Lanka in China, discussing the plan of Forum of Sino-Sri Lanka Trade and Economic Cooperation & Industrial and Commercial Projects Coordination which will be held in the Embassy of Sri Lanka in China in September. On November 28 to 29, 2017, the Forum of Economic Cooperation for Enterprises of Sri Lanka and China was staged in Sri Lanka and turned out to be a great success. In May 30, Paulidor Kholner, former Sri Lanka Ambassador to UN visited China Federation of Industrial Economics, recommending to continue staging similar activities in China this year.

On June 7, the Sino-Africa Forum on Wildlife Protection Cooperation was held in Wits University of Johannesburg, South Africa. Themed “Wildlife Protection: China will Become One of the Major Forces”, the forum was launched by institutions such as China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, Global Max Media Group, Nature Guardian Wildlife Conservation Center and China House, in an effort to enhance

the cooperation between China and South Africa on wildlife conservation. Nearly 200 representatives, coming from non-governmental organizations, consulates, Chinese businesses in Africa, Overseas Chinese in Africa, government departments and media of both China and Africa presented the forum.

On June 9, photo exhibition on Chinese anti-poaching volunteers working in Africa jointly organized by Beijing Pinglan Non-Profit Foundation, Center for Public Diplomacy Studies of Beijing Foreign Studies University and China-Zimbabwe Wildlife Foundation opened in the Library of Beijing Foreign Studies University. Meanwhile, the Pinglan International Forum on Cooperation on Social Welfare Development was held. Participating organizations such as Tencent Foundation, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, China Social Welfare Foundation and China Siyuan Foundation for Poverty Alleviation probed into the international development of social organizations together. The photo exhibition will last to June 30.

On June 9, Zheng Wantong, Vice-Chairman of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and President of China International Council for the Promotion of Multinational Corporations met with Dmitri Fedorovich Ustinov, Chairman of Committee of Economic Policy of Federal Council of the Russian Federation Conference, former Secretary-General of SCO, President of China-Russia Friendship Association. Zheng Wantong invited Ustinov organize a delegation and present the 11th International Corporations Leaders Roundtable which will be held in Tianjin in November, and they also exchanged on the “Sino-Russia Business Leaders 20+20 Cooperation Forum”, a bilateral conference mechanism in planning under the framework of “International Corporations Leaders

Roundtable”.

On June 9, the symposium of Sino-US relations themed “Sino-US Relations in the New Era-Challenges and Prospects” jointly organized by China Association for Friendship and Beijing Foreign Studies University was staged in Beijing. Celebrities such as Christopher Hill, former Deputy Secretary of State of United States, Bob Houghton, former Governor of Missouri, and Shi Yinhong, professor of international relations at Renmin University of China presented the conference and made in-depth discussion on topics such as the history and implications, the status quo and challenges, and future prospects of Sino-US relations.

On June 15, the Beijing conference of non-governmental organization cooperation network from countries alongside the Belt and Road organized by Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Beijing Municipality was held. 21 cooperation network member based in Beijing attended the meeting. Zhu Rui, Secretary-General of Secretariat of the cooperation network exchanged with presenting organizations on topics such as the status quo of the network, the responsibilities of its members, the service of the Secretariat. Focusing on their own job, Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges, Beijing Sub-Council of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and Beijing Association for Science and Technology took part in the discussion. Xiong Jiuling, Director of Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges proposed recommendations to participating organizations on their next step job.

On June 20, the “Belt and Road” journalist organization forum organized by All-China Journalists Association was held in Beijing. The theme of the forum was “build new mechanism

of news exchange and cooperation under the framework of ‘Belt and Road’”. Nearly 100 responsible persons of journalist organizations and media representatives from 47 countries and regions presented the forum, including 24 presidents and vice presidents of national and regional journalist organizations. This is the first time for China to hold an international conference of responsible persons of journalist organizations with people from so many countries and with such high ranks. The forum approved the “Belt and Road” Journalist Organization Cooperation Consensus. All-China Journalists Association signed “Belt and Road” Contract of News Cooperation and Exchange with journalist organizations from more than 20 countries and regions.

On June 22, the founding ceremony of Italy-China Council for the Promotion of National Trade was staged in Florence, Italy. Wang Fuguo, from Consulate of China in Florence and Lan Jun, Party Secretary of China Council for the Promotion of National Trade addressed the ceremony. Nearly 500 people, mainly residents from Chinese communities all over Italy and Chinese living in Italy presented the ceremony. On the ceremony, China Council for the Promotion of National Trade signed strategic cooperative contract with Italy Council for Promotion of National Trade. The She Performing Arts Team from Zhejiang Province contributed colorful national song and dance programs.

On June 22, Liu Kaiyang, Deputy Secretary-General of Chinese Association for International Understanding attended and addressed the Conference between UN and NGOs with Consultative Status of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held in the New York headquarter of UN. This conference was organized by NGO Committee of ECOSOC and

invited more than representatives of NGOs with Consultative Status to attend and address the conference. Chinese Association for International Understanding was the only Chinese NGO to be invited.

On June 23 to 24, the 2018 World SME Conference & the Second “Belt and Road” SME Cooperation Forum was held in Beijing. Themed “Promote Connectivity and Mutual Learning, Realize Win-Win Cooperation”, the conference was sponsored by China Association for Small & Medium Commercial Enterprises and supported by Silk Road Think Tank Association, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. More than 1,000 guest, mainly representatives from enterprises and statesmen from more than 30 countries and international organizations presented the conference.

On June 24, the Third China-Africa Youth Gala entering Sichuan was held in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province. This event was jointly organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China Soong Ching Ling Foundation and the People’s Government of Sichuan Province. More than 100 youth representatives from 53 Africa countries and the committee of Africa Union as well as more than 40 Chinese youth representatives started their four-day visit in Sichuan. In Sichuan, the representatives visited the China Panda Conservation Center and Dujiangyan Irrigation Project and exchanged with local students.

On June 25 to 26, the 2018 BRICS NGO Forum was held in Johannesburg of South Africa. Themed “BRICS and 2063 Agenda”, the forum was jointly organized by South Africa Economic Justice Network and South Africa National Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences. More than 100 representatives of NGOs from South Africa, China,

India, Russia and other developing countries presented the forum. Representatives of a number of Chinese NGOs, namely China NGO Network for International Exchanges, China Association for NGO Cooperation and Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges attended the meeting.

On June 27, the “Belt and Road” International Alliance was founded in Hong Kong and convened its first round table conference for alliance members. The members of the alliance composed of more than 110 government departments, industrial organizations, academic institutions and enterprises from 29 countries and regions, such as Hong Kong, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Burma and the United Kingdom. There are six members from mainland China, namely All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, China International Contractors Association, Asia Merger & Acquisition Association, Fudan University and Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences.

On June 27, the 10th APEC Small & Medium Enterprises Technology Conference and Fair was held in Shenyang, Liaoning Province. Themed “Innovation Promotes Development, Cooperation Create Future”, this fair was organized by organizations led by China International Cooperation Association of Small and Medium Enterprises, and established 2,000 exhibition positions, covering all 21 economies of APEC. A series of supporting activities was staged at the same time with the fair, including APEC Small & Medium Enterprises Innovation and Cooperation Conference, APEC Small & Medium Enterprises Digital Economic Forum, APEC Small & Medium Enterprises Environmental Protection and IT Industry Cooperation Forum & Contact Meeting, Sino-Russia Small & Medium Enterprises Innovation Development Forum & Negotiation Meeting, Innovative Application and International

Cooperation Summit of New Material and New Technologies.

On June 28, the 2018 China-Europe Seminar on Human Rights jointly organized by China Society for Human Rights and International Institute of Human Rights was held in the College of Europe located in Bruges of Belgium. More than 60 scholars and experts from both China and Europe discussed on the theme “cultural diversity and human right protection”. The China-Europe Seminar was a high-level exchange platform on human rights established by China Society for Human Rights and was held annually.

On June 29, the “Belt and Road” Sino-Africa Conference on Exchange of Professionals was held in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. This conference was jointly organized by China-Africa Business Council and School of International Education of Hangzhou Normal University, in an aim to establish a platform of exchange between Africa students in Hangzhou and enterprises of both China and Africa, and offer more learning and working opportunities for these students. Some 100 representatives, composed of international students, representatives of enterprises and institutions such as Zhejiang Federation of Industry & Commerce, Department of Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs of Zhejiang Provincial People’s Government, Zhejiang Provincial Committee of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, China-Africa Business Council and Hangzhou Normal University, presented the conference.

(Translated by Ma Jiatai)