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The Fifth China-Africa People's Forum Held in Chengdu

From 23 to 24 July, 2018, China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and Sichuan Provincial People's Government jointly hosted the Fifth China-Africa People's Forum in Chengdu. The theme of the Forum is "Pooling the Strength of the People, Working together for Enhanced Friendship and Mutual Trust". Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and President of China sent a message of congratulations to the Forum. Wang Qishan, Vice President of China, Sun Jiazheng, Vice Chairman of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of CPC Central Committee (IDCPC), Peng Qinghua, Secretary of the CPC Sichuan Provincial Committee, Yin Li, Governor of Sichuan Provincial People's Government, Wang Yajun, Advisor to CNIE and Vice Minister of the IDCPC, Deng Xiaogang, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Sichuan Provincial Committee, Zhu Hexin, Vice Governor of Sichuan Provincial People's Government, Dou Enyong, CNIE Vice President, Vincent Meriton, President of the People's Party of Seychelles and Vice President of Seychelles, Clément Mouamba, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania and some 200 delegates from over 120 Chinese and African NGOs coming from 30 countries attended the opening ceremony of the Forum. The delegates also had in-depth discussion on the three topics including "Building Consensus among the People towards Stronger Social Base for China-Africa Cooperation" "Pooling Strength

from the People towards Greater Opinion Base for China-Africa Cooperation" "Promoting Exchanges by the People towards Wider Cultural Base for China-Africa Cooperation". The Forum released the Programme for China-Africa People-to-People Friendship and Partnership (2018-2020), according to which 30 non-governmental cooperation projects will be launched in the next three years in five areas including livelihood cooperation projects, donations and assistance work, capacity building and personnel exchanges, development promotion, cultural exchanges and exchange mechanisms.

Initiated by the CNIE in 2011, China-Africa People's Forum is an important institutionalized event within the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and has become an important platform for promoting the people-to-people exchanges and practical cooperation between China and Africa, playing an important role in enhancing the mutual understanding and friendship between Chinese and African people. China-Africa People's Forum established three principles guiding the people-to-people exchanges between China and Africa, namely enhancing people-to-people friendship, facilitating practical cooperation, and promoting world peace. The China-Africa People-to-people Friendship Action Plan formulated in the Forum and implemented thereafter has been widely recognized and supported by the civil society of China and Africa.

(Translated by Wang Xiaoyi)

Message of Congratulations

Beijing
23 July 2018

On the occasion of the opening of the 5th China-Africa People's Forum (CAPF), I would like to extend, on behalf of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese government and the Chinese people, and in my own name, our warm congratulations on the forum, and our sincere welcome to leaders and participants from African countries who have come to this event!

The CAPF serves as an important bridge that brings the Chinese people and African people together. Since its inception in August 2011, by adhering to the three principles for China-Africa people-to-people friendship, namely, "enhancing people-to-people friendship, promoting practical cooperation and furthering world peace", the forum has achieved gratifying progress and become an institutionalised event that plays an essential role in advancing the friendly people-to-people exchanges and cooperation between China and Africa.

People-to-people friendship constitutes the cornerstone of state-to-state relations as well as a key area for future development of China-Africa relations. In September this year, we will host the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. The 5th CAPF, under the theme of "Pooling Strength from the People for Stronger China-Africa Friendship and Mutual Trust", will certainly create even stronger dynamism for friendly people-to-people contacts and cooperation between China and Africa. It is my hope that this forum provides an opportunity for all of you to share ideas and experience, build consensus and contribute your insights and suggestions on friendly people-to-people cooperation between China and Africa, so as to gather fresh momentum and garner stronger support for the building of an even closer community with a shared future for China and Africa!

I wish the 5th China-Africa People's Forum a complete success!

XI Jinping (Signed)
General Secretary of the Central Committee, Communist Party of China
President of the People's Republic of China



Song Tao, Minister of IDCPC reads a letter of congratulations from President Xi Jinping



Senior Representatives attending the 5th China - Africa People's Forum

Address at the Opening Session of the 5th China-Africa People's Forum

Wang Qishan
Vice President of the People's Republic of China

Your Excellency Vincent Meriton, President of the People's Party of Seychelles and Vice President of Seychelles,

Your Excellency Clément Mouamba ,Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

I feel greatly delighted to have you with us here in Chengdu, the city of Hibiscus, at the 5th China-Africa People's Forum. The forum is especially honoured with the message of congratulations from President Xi Jinping. This adequately reflects the importance the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government have placed on the people-to-people exchanges and cooperation between China and Africa, and points out the way to follow in the proceedings of the Forum.

Every time I am with our African friends, I feel completely overwhelmed by the warmth of affinity as our hearts beat together. Both China and African countries belong to the developing world. The close bond between the Chinese people and the African people is underpinned by



similar historical experiences, parallel journeys of struggle and development tasks. China-Africa friendship transcends time and space, and proves to be durable and vigorous. The Chinese people will never forget that it is our African brothers who speak up for us in the international arena and lend us a helping hand when disasters befall us. The Chinese people cherish friendship and loyalty to friends. The TAZARA Railway built in the 20th century, together with the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway and the Mombassa-Nairobi Railway

built in the new era, stand as a great monument to China-Africa fraternal bond. Both historical and recent experiences have proven once and again that the Chinese people and African people are natural allies of shared destiny and are indeed of one harmonious family.

In 2015, at the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation during his visit to Africa, President Xi Jinping clearly identified the five major pillars and ten cooperation programs to build China-Africa Comprehensive Strategic and Cooperative Partnership, charting the course and the blueprint for the development of China-Africa relations. The past three years have witnessed bountiful results in the exchanges and cooperation between China and Africa in various fields. China-Africa relations have scaled new heights of development and entered a new era. China will continue to follow the principle of sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith and uphold the values of greater good and shared interest. China will work together with our African friends to pursue common development and promote the development of China-Africa relations at higher level and in broader scope.

State-to-state relations, in the final analysis, must materialize through human relations. People-to-people exchanges and cooperation enjoy broad prospects and have much to accomplish in developing China-Africa relations in the new era and building an even closer community with a shared future for China and Africa. We hold great expectations for the enhancement of China-Africa people-to-people contacts and cherish high hopes on personages from various walks of life who are devoted to this undertaking.

—All of us must do everything possible to

promote political mutual trust. Cooperation is based on trust, and trust is based on understanding. To understand each other, one not only needs to focus on the present, but also to review the past in retrospect and look into the future. One not only needs to examine the other's policy stands as an outsider, but also join other peoples and listen to their calls. I hope that Chinese and African civil society organizations and individuals could strengthen contacts with reciprocal sincerity and good faith to facilitate the dovetailing of ideas, the convergence of interests and mutual understanding among the people. In this way, our efforts will lead to even closer relations until good is better and better best.

—All of us must do everything possible to promote mutually-beneficial economic cooperation. Economic development, after all, is aimed at creating a better life for the people. The Chinese people and African people alike aspire to strengthen cooperation for common prosperity. Both sides are faced with rare development opportunities. Moreover, the building of the Belt and Road prepares a new platform for China-Africa cooperation. I hope that Chinese and African civil society organizations and business community could serve as effective communicators and spearhead the endeavor to produce as early as possible bountiful results from the people and for the people.

—All of us must do everything possible to put into practice the notion of mutual learning among civilizations. China boasts a splendid civilization uninterrupted for 5,000 years. The Chinese and African civilizations add radiance to each other and share a long history of mutual learning. Today, stories abound about the harmony in

diversity and integrity in our cultural exchanges. I hope that the tradition of China-Africa people-to-people contacts could be carried forward and, in light of the features of our times, be expanded in scope and forms. New platforms will be created and distinctive brands will be established, so that improvements are achieved on both sides, as a result of mutual understanding, mutual respect and mutual appreciation.

—All of us must do everything possible to render mutual assistance in security. Development and progress has by no means eliminated the troubles of natural and man-made disasters facing mankind. No country can prosper in turbulent times. Today, China and African countries are faced with traditional and non-traditional security challenges to varying degrees. I hope that Chinese and African civil society organizations and individuals could harbor a stronger sense of mission and bring their talents into full play in carrying out practical cooperation in poverty alleviation, disease control, disaster prevention and relief, improvement of people's livelihood and other areas, thus mutually supplementing intergovernmental cooperation.

—All of us must do everything possible to strengthen coordination in multilateral arena. The world today is undergoing major developments, transformation and adjustment. Transformation of the global governance system has become an irreversible trend. China and Africa share

extensive common interests and maintain good coordination in international affairs. I hope that civil society organizations could take an active part in relevant work through enhanced coordination and more assertive voice in the international arena, so that the interests of the developing world can be better safeguarded in the international struggle for greater say and for the right to make rules.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

China-Africa People's Forum is an important platform for people-to-people exchanges. I hope that all of you could speak your minds candidly during the discussions at both the plenary and parallel sessions to the benefit of promoting both China-Africa people-to-people friendship and practical cooperation. As the saying goes, "Seeing is believing." I hope that our African friends could make better use of your time in Sichuan and in China to see more, feel more and understand more. You will get to know the real side of the Chinese people and hear the truest Chinese story.

In conclusion, I wish the 5th China-Africa People's Forum a complete success!

Thank you all.

Address at the Plenary Session of the 5th China-Africa People's Forum

Sun Jiazheng

**Vice-Chairman of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's
Political Consultative Conference and President of China NGO
Network for International Exchanges**

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

I feel greatly delighted to attend the plenary session of the 5th China-Africa People's Forum. At the opening ceremony, Song Tao, Minister of International Department, Central Committee of Communist Party of China (CPC), read the message of congratulations from Xi Jinping, General Secretary of CPC Central Committee and Chinese President. Vincent Meriton, Vice President of Seychelles, and Clément Mouamba, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo delivered addresses. Wang Qishan, Vice-President of China delivered a keynote speech. The message from President Xi Jinping fully affirms the important role of China-Africa People's Forum in promoting friendly exchanges and cooperation between the Chinese and African people and



points out the way to follow in the proceedings of the forum. We are greatly inspired and encouraged by it.

The China-Africa People's Forum was initiated by China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) in 2011, aiming at building an important platform for multilateral exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and African civil society organizations. Since its inception, it has been highly valued by high-level leaders of China and Africa and people from all walks of life. From expressing goodwill to strengthening the sharing of ideas and experiences and expanding pragmatic cooperation in all fields, this forum has

achieved even better results year by year, offering wisdoms and solutions of the civil society to the undertaking of China-Africa friendly cooperation. This forum has served as a bridge connecting the two peoples and one of the major supporting events of Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), playing a significant role in enhancing the friendship between the Chinese and African civil society organizations.

In August 2011, the first China-Africa People's Forum was co-organized by CNIE and NGO Coordination Board of Kenya in Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. The forum approved Nairobi Declaration and put forward Three Principles on people-to-people exchanges between China and Africa, namely "deepening people-to-people friendship, enhancing pragmatic cooperation and promoting world peace". These principles were widely accepted and exerted greater influence to the world. This forum opened a new chapter for friendly people-to-people cooperation between China and Africa.

In July 2012, the second China-Africa People's Forum was held in Suzhou, China. Then Vice-President Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony and delivered a keynote speech entitled "Promoting New Development of China-Africa New-Type Strategic Partnership", proposing a new vision for sustainable and stereoscopic development for China-Africa relations. This forum launched "China-Africa Civil Society Organization Friendly Partnership Program" and designed eight cooperation activities on livelihood to be carried out in Africa by civil society organizations of China and Africa. The Proposal

for the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation adopted by the Forum was read out at the closing ceremony of the Ministerial Conference of the FOCAC and had a widespread and positive impact.

In May 2014, CNIE and Sudan NGO Network co-hosted the third China-Africa People's Forum in Khartoum, Sudan. President Xi Jinping sent his message of congratulations to this forum, stressing the idea that China and Africa are a community with a shared future sharing weal and woe. The forum was concluded with the formulation of the Report on China-Africa People-to-People Friendship and Partnership Programme, clarifying our focus of endeavors for China-Africa people-to-people exchanges and cooperation for the next two years.

In August 2015, CNIE and the African Union Economic and Social Council held the 4th China-Africa People's Forum in Yiwu, China. The outcome document Proposal for China-Africa People-to-People Exchanges and Cooperation was adopted and submitted to the China-Africa Cooperation Forum Summit held in South Africa at the end of the year, proposing that the civil society organizations should serve as boosters for the comprehensive and sustainable development of China-Africa relations, enhance mutual understanding through exchanges, deepen mutual trust through cooperation, make their accordant voices in the reform of the global governance system, and further improve the mechanism of China-Africa People's Forum.

I personally attended the second and fourth China-

Africa People's Forum and witnessed with my own eye the development of this forum as well as its important role in enhancing friendship between the Chinese and African people and promoting China-African relations. I have visited Africa for many times. In the ten years when I was the Minister of Culture, I paid five visits to Africa and met with many African friends who came to visit China. The sincerity, kindness, simplicity and wisdom of the African people have left me with an indelible memory. Here, I would like to share some of my thoughts on further developing people-to-people exchanges between China and Africa and promoting the development of China-Africa relations:

First, we should understand the longstanding friendship from generations to generations between the Chinese and African people in the long history, inherit our traditional friendship with a stronger sense of mission and responsibility. China and Africa enjoy a long history of friendship. As early as the 8th century AD, the traveler Du Huan in the Tang Dynasty reached Egypt and Morocco. The well-known expedition trip to the east African coast has brought new development to the close relations between China and North and East African countries. The two sides began to exchange envoys to and present gifts with each other. Sixteen African countries and places were mentioned in the route literature of Zheng He's fleet, making this trip an incredible highlight in the history of China-Africa relations. Since modern times, Chinese and African people have supported each other in the undertaking of striving for national liberation and cooperated sincerely in realizing national development as

well as coordinating closely in safeguarding world peace and promoting common development. Under the grim situation of the Ebola outbreak in Africa, China took the initiative in leading the international community to assist Africa in fighting the epidemic disease. Africa selflessly supported China's return to the United Nations and actively donated money to China after severe earthquakes in Wenchuan and Yushu. China-Africa friendship is formed in history and in the sharing of weal and woe of our two peoples. We must not forget this friendship but cherish it even more and carry it forward in the new era. The civil society organizations are duty-bound to inherit our traditional friendship and consolidate the sound momentum of China-Africa relations and solidarity.

Second, we should understand our friendship in the context of the ever-changing international landscape, and chart the course for friendly cooperation between Chinese and African civil society organizations. The world today is in the transformation unseen in a century and the international landscape is undergoing profound and complex changes. As the world's largest developing country and the continent with most developing countries, China and Africa's solidarity and cooperation is of worldwide and overall significance. The concerted efforts of 2.6 billion people in China and Africa will not only promote their own development but also vigorously promote economic globalization towards openness, inclusiveness, balance and win-win outcomes, thus effectively changing the landscape of the world. The civil society at large, including all civil society organizations should

join hands, proceeding from the overall situation of China-Africa cooperation and the bright future of mankind, to respond to the aspirations and wishes of the people more purposefully, encapsulate common wisdoms and strengths of the civil society more vigorously, and make unremitting endeavors to build a community with a shared future for China and Africa.

Third, we should understand the role of civil society organizations in building an even closer community with a shared future for China and Africa, and promote the innovative development of China-Africa civil society exchanges and cooperation. The Chinese people always regard African people as an equal cooperative partner and Africa a promising land with a huge potential for development. Similarly, the African people see China as a trustworthy brother and partner. Such mutual trust and inter-dependence serve as the bedrock of the sound and stable development of China-Africa ties. Under the new situation, the development of China-Africa relations is fundamentally determined by how the Chinese people and African people treat each other. Civil society organizations should give full play their role as a bridge, pursue innovations in how they cooperate and exchange and focus on cultural exchanges and cooperation on livelihood and people-to-people ties, so as to enhance the mutual understanding and trust among Chinese and African people. They should firmly advocate,

promote and uphold China-Africa friendship, injecting positive energy to common development of China and Africa.

Distinguished guests, delegates,

CNIE is China's largest NGO network specialized in international exchanges and cooperation, with general consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and has more than 260 member organizations. Since its founding in 2005, CNIE has been working actively in encouraging its members to participate in major international NGO events and enhancing the mutual understanding and trust between Chinese and foreign people. It has already begun to enjoy influence and reputation in the international civil society. In May 2017, under President Xi Jinping's proposal, CNIE initiated the establishment of the Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network, aiming at enhancing the civil society exchanges and cooperation among countries along the Belt and Road. A great number of African NGOs have already joined the Network, and we are looking forward to more African NGOs joining it. CNIE is willing to work together with our African friends to jointly promote exchanges and cooperation in China-Africa civil society, and make our due contribution to building an even closer community with a shared future for China and Africa.

Thank you!

Address at the Opening Session of the 5th China-Africa People's Forum

Peng Qinghua
Secretary of Sichuan Provincial Committee of the CPC

Respected Vice President of China, his Excellency
Wang Qishan;

Respected President of Seychelles People's Party,
Seychelles Vice President, his Excellency Vincent
Meriton;

Respected Prime Minister of the Republic of the
Congo, his Excellency Clément Mouamba;
Distinguished guests, dear friends, ladies and
gentlemen:

Good morning! I am more than happy to join you
here in the beautiful city of Chengdu, celebrating
the 5th China-Africa People's Forum. On behalf
of the Sichuan Provincial Committee of CPC,
the Sichuan Provincial Government, and the 91
million Sichuan people, I'd like to express my
warm congratulations on the successful convening
of the Forum, my sincere welcome to all leaders
and guests from afar, and my heartfelt thanks to
friends who have always cared for and supported
Sichuan's development from home and abroad!

Today, President Xi Jinping, who is paying a
state visit to African countries, sent a letter to



the Forum, extending warm congratulations to
the successful convocation of the Forum, with
great expectations on the further strengthening
of China-Africa people-to-people exchanges
and cooperation. The letter shows that the CPC
and the Chinese government highly value the
relation between China and Africa, providing a
clear direction of deepening our comprehensive
strategic cooperative partnership.

Distant as we are, communication between us
has a long-standing history. The Silk Road and
the Maritime Silk Road that took shape 2000
years ago, served as the bridge for exchanges
connecting China and Africa through hundreds of
years. Since modern times, the similar histories
and struggles we share in the fight for national

independence and prosperity, has forged between us the profound friendship shoulder to shoulder through thick and thin.

The tide of the times rolls on, and the world is evolving faster than ever. In 2013, upon his deep thinking on the future of mankind and keen observation of the global trend, President Xi Jinping put forward the Belt and Road Initiative, receiving active responses and wide participation of countries around the globe, including African countries, opening new chapters of the China-Africa joint-construction and sharing of the Belt and Road Initiative and its benefits.

Long been honored as “A Land of Abundance”, Sichuan also marked the starting point of the ancient “South Silk Road”. As an important node of the Belt and Road Initiative, it is also one of the provinces with active interaction with Africa. Dating back as early to the 1970s, more than 8000 workers were sent to participate in the construction of the Tanzania-Zambia Railway by China Railway No. 2 Group (CREG). Sichuan also left its precious mark in the history of friendship between the two peoples, sending 55 groups of medical team to support Africa in the fight against serious diseases such as Ebola.

One unforgettable moment showcasing our genuine friendship was after the Sichuan Wenchuan massive earthquake disaster in 2008, upon which time our African friends sent messages of condolence and extended their helping hands without any delay. In recent years, more than 18 Sichuan cities have become sister cities and have established friendly cooperation

relationship with African cities of 11 African countries. In addition, two direct flights linking Chengdu with Ethiopia and Mauritius have been opened, and Sichuan enterprises have cooperative projects with more than 40 African countries. Exchanges and communication between Sichuan and Africa has constantly been deepened and expanded.

At present, Sichuan is embracing the major development opportunities: the Belt and Road Initiative, the Yangtze River Economic Belt Initiative, and the new round of development and opening-up for the western regions. In doing so, we accelerated the construction of the Tianfu New Area and the China (Sichuan) Pilot Free Trade Zone. The comprehensive innovation and reform experiment is bearing abundant fruits, and Sichuan has become the frontier for inland opening-up of western China.

We are ready to vigorously advance the promotion of policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bonds upon sincerity, real results, friendship, and good faith, in joined hands with our African friends. We shall uphold justice and continuously deepen our cooperation in areas of commerce, industry, education, health care, culture, tourism, and talent. Sichuan is more than willing to make contributions to the building of the China-Africa community with a shared future.

In conclusion, I wish the 5th China-Africa People’s Forum a complete success! I wish all guests and friends a pleasant stay in Sichuan and good health!

Address at the closing ceremony of the 5th China-Africa People's Forum

Wang Yajun
Vice-Minister of the International Department of CPC Central Committee, Advisor to CNIE

Your Excellency Former President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete,
Your Excellency Vice Governor Zhu Hexin,
Ladies, Gentlemen, and friends,

Good Morning!

In the past two days, under the theme of "pooling strength from the people for stronger China-Africa friendship and mutual trust", we gathered in Chengdu and renewed our friendship. We have exchanged ideas, shared experiences, built consensus and discussed the cooperation between us. It was a complete success. On behalf of the organizers, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all distinguished guests and delegates for your efforts.

As a warm-up before the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), based on the principle that "communication among civil groups should go one step ahead of that official exchanges", this forum has consolidated the public foundation and provided impetus among two peoples to promote China-Africa friendship and cooperation, and



pushed forward the building of a community with shared future for China and Africa. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Chinese President, sent his congratulatory letter during his visit in Africa, in which he affirmed the positive role of the Forum in promoting people-to-people exchanges and bilateral cooperation. He also pointed out the direction towards more friendly communications. Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony. Sun Jiazheng, the head of China NGO Network for International Exchange and Vice-Chairman of the 11th CPPCC National Committee addressed the plenary session. Vincent Meriton, Vice president of the Seychelles and Party president of the People's Party, and Clément Mouamba, prime minister of the Republic of the Congo, also attended and gave a speech at the opening of the

forum. In particular, one of our best friends and the important driver of the China-Tanzania and China-Africa cooperation, the Former President of Tanzania Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete managed to reach Chengdu at midnight yesterday, despite twists and turns on the journey, and made a speech of passionate eloquence. Please join me in applause for him to express our earnest thanks and respect.

The Forum is the most fruitful compared with the previous ones, in which more than one hundred delegates from China and Africa were involved in the frank discussion and made active contribution at the plenary session and three parallel sessions. The Forum adopted Plans for China-Africa Friendly Partnership between Two Peoples (2018-2020), drawing a roadmap for the people-to-people cooperation in the following three years. Just now, delegates from two sides movingly illustrated win-win outcomes we have achieved in the past. We also reviewed the practical results of China-Africa civil cooperation and witnessed signing of agreements on practical projects.

The Forum aims at deepening mutual trust between Chinese and African people and opening a new era when China and Africa will go hand in hand more closely to reach an even stronger China-Africa community with a shared future. With the concentration of wisdom and strength from people, a series consensus has been built. Here are some main ideas generalized from shared insights and suggestions:

First, we should enhance synergy of perception between two sides for an even stronger China-Africa community with a shared future. Through two hot words in our discussion -- “Chinese Dream” and “African Dream”, the significant common ground that our community will bridge our dreams has been reached. We agreed that a

thorough strategic partnership and cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative will create golden opportunities for the establishment of the stronger community. Meanwhile, strengthening our community identity and enhancing synergy between strategies and thoughts for cooperation will construct a solid foundation.

Second, we should promote cooperation on people's livelihood to build an even stronger China-Africa community with a shared future. These projects have a direct impact on people's welfare, so that improvement and development of people's livelihood must be the top priority in governments' agenda. We agreed that, depending on China-Africa People's Forum, NGOs should cooperate broadly and deeply in areas related to people's livelihood, implement Plans for China-Africa Friendly Partnership between Two Peoples (2018-2020) as well as other outcomes and inspire more people-to-people cooperation to stimulate livelihood projects under the construction of a thorough bilateral strategic partnership and the frame of the Belt and Road Initiatives. As a result, the sense of gaining and happiness will be enhanced and the impetus to move toward an even stronger China-African community with a shared future will be increased.

Third, we should share more experience. Many African friends here said that Africa was confronted with challenges in achieving a further sustainable development and implementing the UN Agenda 2030, particularly at the reach of the stage of taking off in industrialization. In China's practice in the Reform and Opening-up Policies over the past 40 years, with the continuous development in the road, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics, many successful and effective experience and methods have been accumulated in regards of statecraft, poverty alleviation, environmental

protection, people's livelihood insurance and others, which has expanded the way for developing countries to head for modernization and could be a good reference for Africa. With more experience sharing, development objectives of Africa will be better accomplished and mightiness to achieve a mutual development along with an even stronger China-Africa community with a shared future will be further strengthened.

Fourth, we should rely on an intimate and in-depth mutual learning. In our discussion, many delegates mentioned the time-honored history and glorious civilization which are the pride of China and Africa. Mutual communication and exchanges will nourish and inspire collaboration in cultural and spiritual aspects. More platforms ought to be built on the framework of China-Africa People's Forum for the sake of a closer contact among people. We should provide more sources of information to drill down mutual understanding. We should be good storytellers of our friendship and excellent message-senders of positiveness in our partnership, so that a comprehensive connection in two cultures, policies and peoples are approaching and the identity of an even stronger community with a shared future is taking roots, blooming and fruiting in people's mind.

Fifth, we should accumulate more civil strength. We agreed that Chinese and Africans are paramount for the construction of our community and we unanimously approved for practical measures to mobilize all kinds of people-to-people organizations for a composite force that can contribute to our joint mission. Recently, FOCAC Youth Leaders Forum, Forum on China-Africa Media Cooperation, China-Africa Thinking Tanks Forum and China-Africa Youth Gala, all these activities have narrowed the distance between Chinese and the African people, deepened mutual understanding and contributed to our thriving

cooperation for prosperity. We should continue to be pioneer of innovation, pushers of stimulation and the aggregator of non-government force, making people become the source of flowing water of our stronger community.

Dear friends, Ladies and Gentlemen.

There is an old African saying: the deeper you travel in the forest, the bigger tree you will see. In the context of the increasingly close bilateral cooperation, our forum is thriving like a leafy tree, particularly with the guidance of our leaders and the concern from Chinese and the Africans. Obviously, cooperating hand in hand towards an even stronger China-Africa community with a shared future is a long-term and grandeur mission and a complex system project requires our continuous efforts. We sincerely hope that, with the strong support of people from China and Africa, more friendly partnership will be built, more responsibility and obligation will be claimed and more civil wisdom and strength will be provided.

Dear friends, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Diverse activities, a tight schedule and the great number of delegates made organizing work quite heavy, in which Sichuan Province Party Committee and People's Government of Sichuan Province put a lot of human and physical resources to assure the spectacular success. I propose to applaud with our sincere respect and gratitude for all workers and their meritorious efforts.

I look forward to seeing you again.

Thank you!

(Tranlated by An Kerui)

Address at the opening ceremony of the 5th China-Africa People's Forum

Vincent Meriton

Vice-President of Seychelles, Chairman of Seychelles People's Party

Distinguished Vice-President Wang Qishan,
Ladies, gentlemen and friends,
Good morning!

It's a great pleasure for me to attend the 5th China-Africa People's Forum. I would like to talk about the cooperation between Seychelles and China and the development of civil organizations in Seychelles.

The relationship between Seychelles and China has a long history and has achieved fruitful results. Seychelles and China are partners and friends, adhering to the principle of mutual respect and mutual benefit, and have carried out good cooperation at various levels. The staging of the 5th China-Africa People's Forum shows that international politics is changing, indicating that China's rise and strength on the world stage, reflecting China's growing leadership in promoting a more just globalization. Seychelles



and China can cooperate, conduct and discuss initiatives to promote human progress on an equal basis.

Africa has long been a colony of Western powers, and experienced the history of suffering caused by slavery whose resources have been plundered. However, today's Africa has closed the dark page and has become a continent full of hope. With partners and friends like China, Africa can establish new partnerships, find new solutions, reach new agreements, and achieve a win-win situation. The Belt and Road Initiative is a very vivid example. Seychelles hopes to sign the Belt and Road Cooperation Agreement with China at the Beijing Summit of the forum on China-Africa

Cooperation. The African side hopes to establish a new partnership with China under the framework of Belt and Road Initiative.

Just as the “real development is related to the development of the people” advocated by this forum, the responsibility of the national leaders is to provide the path and opportunity for the people to participate in development and to succeed in development. One of these paths is civil society. When people unite to achieve common goals, they will be equipped with enormous energy and potential.

Civil organizations in Seychelles play a vital role in promoting domestic development. The Citizens’ Participation Platform is an organization that engages in dialogue between the civil organizations and the government. It consists of seventy-two registered civil society organizations and seven committees in different fields. In January 2018, the Seychelles government signed a second memorandum of understanding with the platform and established a mechanism to ensure close cooperation between the government and civil society. In the memorandum of understanding, a high-level committee composed

of the vice president’s office and platform representatives was also proposed. Although the construction of the above mechanism requires a lot of energy, it can ensure the working principles of transparency and good governance.

It is believed that this forum will bring more opportunities to African civil society, promote the continued growth and development of African civil organizations, and play a greater role in promoting social progress and improving people's well-being. The China-Africa Civil Friendly Partnership Program (2018-2020), which is proposed by the forum, is rich in content. It includes a large number of pragmatic cooperation projects between civil society of China and Africa which can bring more benefits to both sides.

Society is diverse, and there are different beliefs and traditions in Africa. This forum fully shows that Africa-China can achieve win-win cooperation through mutual respect. We should work together to gather civil strength and to build a better future for Africa-China cooperation.

Thank you all!

Address at the Opening Ceremony of the 5th China-Africa People's Forum

Clément Mouamba
Prime Minister of The Republic of the Congo

Your Excellency Vice-President Wang Qishan,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen, friends,

Good morning! The Congo delegation and I are deeply honored to participate in the 5th China-Africa People's Forum. I wish to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciations and gratitude to the organizers of this event, the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and the Government of the People's Republic of China for your invitation and the warm reception and thoughtful arrangements. In addition, please allow me to convey the best wishes from President Denis Sassou Nguesso to the conference. Sassou is an old friend of China, and he has worked with His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of China, for a long time to develop China-Africa relations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish to express my congratulations to the



convening of this forum. A few weeks later, the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) will be held. At that time, relevant heads of state and government will gather in China. The theme of this forum is "Work together for Enhanced Friendship and Mutual Trust". This forum is held at the right time. We are here to promote friendly exchanges between China and Africa with the force of the civil society. Today we are gathered in the beautiful city of Chengdu to contribute our efforts to FOCAC. We have already held local government forums, defense and security forums, think tanks forums and other side events. We should also make our contribution to the future summit, just like the above forums.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we know, following the 2015 Johannesburg summit, the Beijing Summit hopes to push Africa-China relations to a higher level through the implementation of the Johannesburg Declaration of the Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Johannesburg Action Plan (2016-2018), and important initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping, as well as the ten cooperation programs. Therefore, we show our importance to China-Africa Cooperation Forum once again. Marching on this path, members of the Forum have followed the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith, solidarity and collaboration, actively promoted the full implementation of the Johannesburg Summit outcomes to achieve win-win cooperation. There are many complex challenges in the world today, which we need new measures to deal with.

FOCAC has explored the development path of China and African countries and played an important role in promoting the economic and social development of African countries, strengthening connectivity, ensuring public health, promoting food security and improving people's well-being.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the world has developed into a global village, Africa and China should attach great importance to the complex global challenges, work together to alleviate poverty, fight corruption and

terrorism, tackle diseases, cyber crime, climate change and other issues, and uphold social justice and security. This vision for work is highly consistent with President Xi Jinping's idea of a community with a shared future for mankind and the Belt and Road Initiative. Through the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, Africa has a comprehensive understanding of the profound connotation of the initiative and highly appreciates the innovative and revolutionary significance of the initiative. Africa has taken action and will benefit a great deal in the coming days. Therefore, we encourage African leaders to explore the path and method of implementing the Belt and Road Initiative with the opportunity of FOCAC. The implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative will bring common benefits to the African and Chinese people who are devoted to alleviating poverty and will further consolidate the foundation of the forum.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Republic of the Congo and China have developed bilateral relations with high-level mutual trust for a long time, especially since the Sixth Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. We wish the Beijing Summit a complete success. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1964, the mutual trust between the Republic of the Congo and China has deepened and pragmatic cooperation has yielded bountiful results in various fields. In 2013, when Xi Jinping was elected as the President of the People's Republic of China, he chose the Republic of the Congo for

his first state visit, and we are deeply honored. President Xi Jinping attached great importance to developing relations between China and the Republic of the Congo, and he personally received President Sassou twice during his state visit to China. President Sassou is an old friend of the Chinese people, and he is willing to work with President Xi Jinping to deepen and develop the precious friendship and cooperation between two countries. Congo-China relations have been upgraded to a comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership in 2016. China is not only Congo's largest trading partner, but also Africa's largest trading partner. What's more, China has made Congo as the fourth pilot country on capacity cooperation in Africa. Congo has gained tangible benefits from its bilateral cooperation with China and achieved high-quality and rapid economic development in a short period of time. Pointe-Noire special economic zone that China helped Congo to build has been a trademark project, in the implementation of Johannesburg Summit outcomes. The Congolese government and people believe that Congo-China cooperation is of exemplary significance in Africa-China cooperation and firmly oppose the baseless and distorted accusations made by few countries against Africa-China cooperation. The Republic of Congo will speak out boldly to uphold justice.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Finally, I will talk about the Chinese government,

the Chinese people and the Communist Party of China. After building a moderately prosperous society, you are committed to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. This year marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up, which created China's economic miracle, this is a world record, and I would like to extend my warmest congratulations. China is also the second largest economy, with billions of people lifted out of poverty. After the Eighteenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people, under the guidance of the leadership of General Secretary Xi Jinping and Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, China has made outstanding achievements. I also would like to extend my warmest congratulations. The successful convening of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and the 13th session of the National People's Congress and the Chinese people's Political Consultative Conference, has given us more reason to believe that Africa-China relations will be better in the future and that Africa-China friendship and mutual trust will continue to deepen. I hope that Congo-China relations will forge ahead.

Thank you all.

Address at the Closing Ceremony of the 5th China-Africa People's Forum

Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete
Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania

Your Excellencies,
Honourables,
Distinguished Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me to begin by expressing my heartfelt appreciations and gratitude to the organizers of this event, the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the invitation and the warmth of reception and gracious hospitality. Honestly, I have been enjoying every minute of my stay. It gives me immense pleasure and a great sense of pride to be invited to participate at the Fifth China – Africa People's Forum in the hometown of Giant Panda. I applaud the organizers for choosing a pertinent theme; “Work together for Enhanced Friendship and Mutual Trust”.

Distinguished Guests,

I regret that I could not be here since the beginning because of urgent family matters which I had to attend in person. Also, because of delays caused by the airline which made me arrive last night instead of yesterday afternoon which could have allowed me to join you in the afternoon session. I feel sad not to have benefited from the wealth of knowledge and experience shared by the presenters, delegates and think tanks on how China can work together with Africa to enhance friendship for our mutual benefit.



Excellencies,
Dear Friends,
Distinguished Guest;

China has always been a dear friend of Africa, as many countries in Africa including my beloved country Tanzania can testify. The strong bonds of friendship and cooperation are founded on solid principles of mutual respect, mutual support and mutual benefit. In the case of Tanzania this has been made possible by the friendship and close cooperation between the founding fathers of our respective countries: President Julius Nyerere on the Tanzanian side and Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Chou En-Lai on the Chinese side. Fortunately, these fraternal relations have been nurtured, consolidated and advanced by the successive generations of leaders who followed after them. I feel proud to have been one of them. Since the mid 1960s Africa and China have continued to work closely together on various bilateral and multilateral fora. Indeed, the relations

have transcended the traditional Government to Government contacts and extended to businesses and civil society organizations. There has been vibrant investment and trading cooperation. We are witness to phenomenon increase in investment and volume of trade between China and Africa. China has become an important source of development assistance and technology for Africa nations. Through the China-Africa People's Forum we are witnesses to close cooperation between Africa and Chinese NGOs. This Fifth Meeting as a case in point. There are also relations between individuals to the extent that the number of African and Chinese people call each other friends, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters is ever increasing.

Distinguished Guests,

For relation between China and Africa to blossom and grow to the greatest heights possible, we must ensure further strengthening of government to government relations as well as relations between the corporate sectors and between the NGOs of our two sides. Fortunately, government to government relations are being taken very good care of under FOCAC and at the bilateral level. The China Africa Business Forum is taking care of the business relations and this forum takes care of the civil society relations. We should commend ourselves for our steadfastness and commitment to see these relations grow to the greatest heights possible. However, we should not be complacent. We should always strive to do more and there is room for doing better. The spirit should be to better than yesterday. This way we will aspire to have better tomorrow and the years to come. That is why I found the theme very opportune indeed. We must "Work together for Enhanced Friendship and Mutual Trust", It would be remiss of me if I did not recognize and commend China's understanding of Africa's political and economic

situation and the unique needs and challenges. We deeply appreciate the fact that China has always been ready to respond accordingly. Africa is changing for the better thanks in some ways to the generous support we have been getting from the government and the people of China.

I am glad that our meeting is being held now so that what comes out of our meeting will feed into the work of the Forum on China – Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) which is to take place in a couple of months in Beijing under the theme: "China and Africa: Towards an even Stronger Community with a Shared Future through Win-win Cooperation". We appreciate the cooperation between China and African countries through this mechanism. I sincerely hope that the FOCAC will find ways of assisting the work of NGOs both in China and Africa. We are important partners of our governments. They are there to support and advance the wonderful work being done by our governments. They deserve support.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Distinguished Guests,

As I conclude, I would like to use this opportunity to encourage Chinese NGOs to find ways of establishing relations with NGOs in Africa. With your strong support from the Chinese government, NGOs in Africa would benefit in many ways. It will help them grow and deliver better on their objectives.

At this juncture, allow me to once again thank the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the invitation, and for associating me with this important forum.

I thank you for your kind attention!

To discipline Chinese NGO overseas activities, improve the relationship between Chinese NGOs and local stakeholders, and ensure the security of NGOs' employees, supplies and fund, China NGO Network for International Exchanges and China Charity Alliance, working with the organizations concerned, come up with The Initiative for the Conduct Code of Chinese NGO Oversea Activities. With this initiative, we hope that the overseas project design would be more accurate, the project execution would be more efficient, and the overseas projects would be more influential.

The Initiative for the Conduct Code of Chinese NGO Overseas Activities

1 General Principles

1.1 An organization should abide by relevant laws and regulations of China and shall not harm the interests of the state when carrying out overseas activities.

1.2 An organization should abide by local laws and regulations and relevant international norms of behavior, and communicate with residents, institutions and governments with an open and inclusive mind in carrying out overseas activities.

1.3 An organization should establish the concept of interdependence and mutually beneficial cooperation, take the pursuit of human well-being

as the goal, and jointly promote the building of a community of shared future for mankind.

2 Good Professional Morality

2.1 The projects carried out by an organization should be consistent with their missions. An organization should take the fulfillment of missions as the goals of all activities and decisions overseas.

2.2 All employees of an organization must agree with the ethics and regulations based on the values of the organization, and at any time, their behavior must be moral and to protect the reputation of the organization itself and its stakeholders.

2.3 The behavior of an organization should conform to moral standards. They should not only care for people, animals and environment, but also deal with the impact on stakeholders timely.

2.4 An organization should actively discipline their behaviors through the following ways:

- Clarify the core values and basic principles;
- Establish and apply a reasonable organizational governance structure to maintain moral in terms of internal governance, project execution and foreign relations.
- Take the multiple needs of the management, employees and stakeholders of the organization into consideration, and establish moral standards of behaviors that conform to the organization's purposes and missions.
- Encourage and urge the employees to actively abide by the moral standards of conduct.
- Prevent and resolve conflicts of interest that may lead to immoral behavior in an organization.
- Establish a supervision mechanism, implement specific measures, and supervise the morality of an organization's behavior.
- Establish an anonymous reporting system so that all parties could report the immoral behaviors of the organization.
- When the object of organizational behaviors is an individual or a group, it should adopt and implement generally accepted moral standards of behavior.
- When affecting the life and survival of animals, it should provide appropriate care for animals and provide suitable conditions when feeding, breeding, producing, transporting and using animals.

2.5 NGO employees working abroad should have essential language skills and other relevant professional skills required to carry out the project.

2.6 In order for a better project progressing, an organization should establish unimpeded channels on information needed to carry out projects,

including the relation between the concerned country and China, legal institutions, local custom, social requirement and other background information, details about local partners and other potential information.

2.7 An organization should establish privacy policies, for sake of the privacy of donors, employees and the others, and should pay attention to the confidentiality of information.

2.8 An organization should establish a safety management system and improve it from time to time, when they take activities abroad. It could be referring to risk prevention and control on politics, law, culture, nature and daily, training on an emergency package, purchasing personal accident insurance and medical insurance for employees, equipping with professional equipment and keeping contacted.

3 Respect for Law and International Norms of Behavior

3.1 An organization should accept that respect for the rule of law is mandatory.

3.2 An organization should know relevant laws and regulations well, and make sure that the employees understand them. A professional lawyer should be consulted if necessary.

3.3 An organization should:

- comply with legal requirements in all jurisdictions in which the organization operates;
- ensure that its relationships and activities fall within the intended and relevant legal framework;
- remain informed of all legal obligations; and
- periodically review its compliance.

3.4 An organization should respect international norms of behavior, while adhering to the principle of respect for the rule of law. In countries where the law or its implementation does not provide for minimum environmental or social safeguards, an organization should strive to respect international

norms of behavior.

3.5 An organization should respect human rights and recognize both their importance and their universality, according to the Constitution of the PRC, which says "the State respects and preserves human rights", and the International Bill of Human Rights. An organization should accept that these rights are indivisibly applicable in all countries, cultures and situations, on economic, political, social, cultural and civil rights, to promote the coordinated development of individual and collective human rights.

4 Transparent and Efficient Internal Governance

4.1 An organization should establish an efficient decision-making mechanism to make sure the council can carry out their duties and mechanisms that enable fast response in case of emergency.

4.2 Regarding to the results of its decisions and activities, including significant consequences, an organization should accept appropriate scrutiny and accept a duty to respond to this scrutiny.

4.3 An organization should be responsible for wrongdoing, taking the appropriate measures to remedy the wrongdoing and prevent it from being repeated.

4.4 The information of organization should be timely and factual and be presented in a clear and objective manner to enable stakeholders to accurately assess the impact that the organization's decisions and activities have on their respective interests.

4.5 An organization should disclose in a clear, accurate and complete manner and to a reasonable and sufficient degree, the policies, decisions and activities for which it is responsible, including the known and likely impacts on society and the environment.

4.6 The principle of transparency does not require that proprietary information be made public, nor does it involve providing information that is legally protected or that would breach legal, commercial, security or personal privacy obligations.

4.7 An organization should be transparent regarding:

- the purpose, nature and location of its activities;
- the identity of its stakeholders
- the manner in which its decisions are made, implemented and reviewed, including the definition of the roles, responsibilities, accountabilities and authorities across the different functions in the organization;
- standards and criteria against which the organization evaluates its own performance
- the source, amount and use-method of its financial resources;
- the known and likely impacts of its decisions and activities on its stakeholders, society and the environment;

5 Respect for Stakeholder Interests

5.1 An organization should respect, consider and respond to the interests of its stakeholders.

5.2 Before carrying out the activities, an organization should recognize the interests, legal rights and concerns of stakeholders, assess the possible influences of stakeholders to activities.

5.3 An organization should establish contact with all the stakeholders, to deliver efficient service. On a voluntary basis, engage with the stakeholders and play a positive role.

5.4 On the basis of mutual respect and equality organizations should establish long-term, stable cooperative relations with local partners.

Programme for China-Africa People-to-People Friendship and Partnership (2018-2020)

I. Livelihood Cooperation Projects, Donations and Assistance Work

1. China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation: Smiling Children meal programme and clean drinking water project in Ethiopia and Sudan; women's training programme in Ethiopia; donation of teaching equipment and hygiene supplies in Sudan; refugee assistance programme in Uganda and South Sudan and Care Package Programme in Namibia.

2. Overseas Chinese Charity Foundation of China: Belt and Road: Brightness Action programme to provide free cataract treatment for impoverished local residents in African countries; financing the construction of dormitories for primary and secondary schoolgirls in Malawi.

3. Red Cross Society of China: a provision of RMB several million every year as humanitarian assistance to developing national Red Cross Societies in Africa every year; community development programmes in cooperation with Red Cross Societies of Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Madagascar.

4. China NGO Network for International Exchanges and China Foundation for Peace and Development: Lighting Africa Project in cooperation with relevant enterprises, donating

500 Han Umbrellas equivalent of 1 million RMB yuan to poor areas short of electricity in Africa.

5. China Youth Development Foundation: Project Hope Going to Africa programme. So far, a total of 23 Hope Primary Schools have been commissioned in Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, Rwanda and Burundi with a total funding of US\$5.5 million.

6. Amity Foundation: training programmes for poor single mothers in Ethiopia to raise their income; Dream Class programme in Kenya to help the local youth in their pursuit of better development, which will be built into a China-Africa youth exchange centre and project incubator.

7. The Central Committee of the Communist Youth League: Overseas Service Project of Chinese Young Volunteers, under which up to 100 Chinese young volunteers will be sent to Africa in the coming three years.

8. China Charity Alliance, through more effective coordination with relevant organisations, undertakes to devise an overall plan for the development of Chinese charity in Africa, with the aim of enhancing the efficiency and reach of Chinese charity programmes in Africa.

II.Capacity Building and Personnel Exchanges

1.China Law Society: the building and development of China-Africa Joint Arbitration Centre; facilitation of cooperation between Chinese law schools and legal research institutes and their African counterparts in developing China-Africa joint legal research centres and training bases.

2. China Family Planning Association: China-Africa: Travel with Love programme in 2-5 African countries to provide adolescent sex education, reproductive health education and HIV/AIDS prevention programmes and maternity care programme.

3. Gansu Hydraulic Research Institute: provision of personnel training and technological consultancy services on rainwater utilization, water resources management in cooperation with UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and other organisations.

4. China Nonferrous Metals Industry Association: in cooperation with relevant Zambian institutions, providing vocational training in the nonferrous metals industry and helping with the building of a higher vocational school in Zambia to train skilled workers.

5. Chengdu Social Organization Academy: establishing Belt and Road International Social Organization Training Center with a focus on helping African social organizations strengthen capacity building.

III. Development Promotion

1. China Enterprise Confederation: tripartite (China-Norway-Africa) corporate social responsibility programme entitled Be a Responsible Enterprise in Africa in cooperation

with employer organisations in Norway, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania.

2. International Federation of Small Hydropower:Lighting Africa, small hydropower project in cooperation with relevant UN agencies; cooperation with Tanzania and other countries in hydropower development, sustainable rural community development and renewable energy.

3. All-China Women's Federation: strengthening exchanges and cooperation on gender equality with African people'sfriendship organisations; facilitating China-Africa high-level women's dialogue, friendly exchanges, thematic study trips and capacity building activities so as to bring about all-round development of Chinese and African women.

4. State-owned companies under the supervision of Beijing Municipal Government including Beijing Construction Engineering Group, Uni-Construction Group, Zhonghao Investment Group and Urban Construction Group: infrastructure development projects of highways, water conservancy facilities, residential houses, rail transport, and prospecting, which will create job opportunities for the local people and help to improve their livelihood.

5. China Association of Communication Enterprises, StarTimes Group and others: cooperating with African partners in the fields of network communication, industrial capacity building and Access to TV SatelliteProgramme.

IV. Cultural Exchanges

1. The World Federation of Acupuncture-Moxibustion Societies: opening degree courses in collaboration with South African counterparts; building Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) educationcentres for acupuncture and moxibustion

in Mauritius, Seychelles and Morocco; implementation of programmes benefiting local people including Impression of TCM lectures and freeTCM clinical service.

2. All-China Environment Federation: exchanges with Kenyan environmental protection organisations under the theme of Green Belt and Road.

3. Great Wall Society of China: establishing multilateral cooperative relations with African civil organisations to boost youth exchanges and cooperation on culture, art, music and photography.

4. Beijing Film Academy plans to host China-Africa International Film Festival in Africa; China National Centre for the Performing Arts undertakes to forge strategic cooperative partnership with Algerian Opera House.

5. Beijing Municipal Women's Federation: in cooperation with Egyptian Embassy in China, organising China-Egypt expert dialogues, women exchanges events, Egyptian cultural exhibitions and art performance.

6. Capital University of Economics and Business, University of International Business and Economics, Capital Institute of Physical Education and other institutions of higher learning: plan to establish partnerships with universities in Egypt, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Tunisia, Rwanda and other countries.

7. University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Southwest Jiaotong University and Xihua University: plan to carry out pragmatic cooperation with relevant institutions in African countries, focusing on nurturing professionals in electronic information, transportation and machine manufacturing with

an aim to train senior professions for African countries in the next three years.

V. Exchange Mechanisms

1. China Association for Science and Technology plans to organize events including China-Africa Think Tanks Forum, International Symposium on China-Africa Science and Technology Cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road, and International Conference on China-Africa Water Civilization. Research will be conducted on African science and technology organisations and efforts will be made to build scientific alliances with the support of universities and think tanks.

2. All-China Youth Federation plans to continue the hosting of Asian-African Youth Festivals over the next three years to cover all African countries that have diplomatic relations with China.

3. Chinese Association for International Understanding undertakes to sign the Framework Agreement for Closer People-to-people Exchanges and Cooperation with Tanzania-China Friendship Promotion Association.

4. Beijing Tongrentang, Holley-Cotec and other pharmaceutical companies under the supervision of Beijing Municipal Government: research and TCM promotion on tropical diseases in cooperation with African partners.

5. Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges, Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Beijing Federation of Literary and Art Circles and other organizations: strengthening contacts and exchanges with African civil organisations by participating in international conferences and improving structured exchanges.

People-to-people Exchanges: Going Through Changes

Wang Shi

In May and June, together with my colleagues from Chinese Culture Promotion Society, I invited dozens of experts to hold a workshop on cultural exchanges with foreign countries by social groups. The workshop took place in Shanghai, Xi'an and Beijing successively. One of my most impressive observations is that, when it comes to this new topic, it is the issue of perception that should be focused on first rather than policies, governance, finance or other related work.

Attention was paid to the following issues in our workshop.

1.The increasing significance of civil society in international relations and exchanges.

Prior to the Reform and Opening-up in 1978, “society” had a narrower sense and even sounded a little pejorative, which was often linked with some negative words like “social youth” (young people who act against social norms).

However, the boundary of “society” has been expanded enormously since the Reform. The civil society has growing a lot, which reflects the freedom of association written in our Constitution and demonstrates the continuous improvement of socialist democracy throughout China. Generally



speaking, the progress deserves positive comments.

In a broader sense, all non-governmental sectors, such as public institutions, civil groups, colleges and universities, enterprises, medical institutions, foundations and social organizations are all included in the domain of society. They are also collectively referred to as “civil society”.

Even in a narrower sense, more than 840,000 social organizations have already registered in China. And there are a large number of off-the-list “self-organizations” , which may be as many as 10 times of this number.

The globalization of economy, science and information has led to large-scale and frequent exchanges at the state, society and individual levels. International, inter-group and interpersonal relationships have all been unprecedentedly cosmopolitanized.

Another unprecedented trend is that international exchanges are increasingly happening between societies or individuals.

Over the past years, governments and political parties played the dominant roles in the establishment of international relations via the fundamental approach——diplomacy.

With the worldwide emergence of NGOs and the universalization of global governance in the late 1980s, civil groups and citizens have become more important, being considered as the decisive factors in some momentous international relations and events

Furthermore, it is undeniable that, considering flexibility and acceptance, some exchanges projects backed by governments and political parties are promoted in the name of civil groups.

The complimentary status of people-to-people communication is absolutely incompatible with present demands. We must redefine it. Nowadays, it is not an overstatement to regard people-to-people exchanges as a crucial and indispensable approach to the international relationship in the new era.

2.Cultural exchanges lay a foundation for all communication with foreign countries.

Amity and connectivity between the peoples hold the key to sound relations between states. It is the common objective of diplomacy as well as people-to-people exchanges.

Bridging cultural differences is the base of exchanges, be it official or civil. Communications in any form require acquaintance, understanding, tolerance and compromise in belief, values, social systems, aesthetic orientation and lifestyles.

According to friends engaged in international

cooperation and aids, in the practice of the Belt and Road Initiatives, many projects could not win recognition from other states and the local residents, in spite of the fact that we offered both fund and labour for free. It may be attributed to the cultural differences.

Differences are the features of people-to-people communication. If there were no differences, communication would not deserve any efforts. Hence, all kinds of communication must focus on cultural differences. As the German sociologist Max Weber said, if we have learned something from the history of economic development, it would be the fact that nearly all disparities are caused by culture.

To understand a country, one must understand its people; to understand the people, one must get to know their culture.

Since Coca-cola returned to Chinese market in 1979, about 150 million bottles of its products are sold every single day in this country. The four-character translation of its brand name printed on the bottles and tins has an impact on its acceptance and popularity among Chinese consumers, which can be a typical example of the commercial sale in the conformity of local culture and convention.

We all build on intimate terms with, rely on and defend our own culture; we tend to be unfamiliar with, alert to and reject suspiciously the interracial, exotic, heterogeneous civilization.

Let's put aside prejudice, rejection, confrontation, conflict and other negative factors among different cultures. It would still be a long process to familiarize, accept and appreciate a foreign culture by getting rid of the earlier unfamiliarity, curiousness and vigilance.

Any group can freely make their own choices when confronted with cultural diversity.

Sufficient evaluation and persistent patience are necessity of surmounting divergence and making choices. It is unrealistic to imagine the popularity among other nations wishfully or to exaggerate the propagation only because of a couple of visits and workshops.

The most important thing is that the sustainable and continuous people-to-people communication glimmering each time, which will chisel countless pores and open abundant windows despite the small size and short time.

Unlike any campaign, civil communication is like the rain in the spring, moistening everything peacefully.

3.Avoid egotism

One of our colleagues who is a veteran in foreign cultural communications suggested that the interaction between nations was similar to that between people. He compared exporting culture with paying a visit to others, where your gestures and words were of vital importance. Some claim that Chinese culture should “overwhelm and lead the world”. That is not good wording. It would be more appropriate to “greeting the world”. He also argued that, in foreign exchanges, we should take other culture into account, particularly our expression and wording in the introduction about China. For example, we should mention our respect for their culture, compliment on the progress and achievements they made, express our gratitude for their assistance, affirm the outcomes accomplished by two sides, explain the misunderstanding and doubt about China, talk about China’s recognition and commitment on their practical requests and also look forward to the win-win cooperation.

Diplomacy always serves extremely practical and specific national interest, which is not true in people-to-people communication. Victory or failure does not matter in civil interaction,

especially in culture exchange. Even if there are certain considerations of interest, they can never be exposed completely. It seems that friendship should be the one and only goal of non-government interaction, and amiability should be the one and only approach to realize the goal.

Amity between people is the ultimate value.

Mr Fei Xiaotong once said, “Every form of beauty has its uniqueness. Precious is to appreciate other forms of beauty with openness. If beauty represents itself with diversity and integrity, and the world will be blessed with harmony and unity.” In terms of cultural exchanges, we should never adopt attitudes that only focus on ourselves.

Chuang-tzu once said, “Nobody will appreciate the beauty of narcissistic people.”

The Book of Odes says, "A bird sings out to draw a friend's response. " Exporting Chinese culture is to make friends instead of flaunting. Nowadays, as China is becoming an emerging strong economy with a prominent role on international stage, exaggeration on cultural peculiarities and superiority must be circumvented.

The fundamental philosophy about cultural exchanges is to acknowledge and respect all cultures.

In our workshop, some people mentioned a story about Primer Zhou Enlai. When China prepared to provide less developed countries with food aid with the notice of conspicuous characters “assistance from China” printed on the bags, he demanded the omission of the word “assistance” so as to show friendliness and equality instead of proud boast.

(The author is the chairman of Chinese Culture Promotion Society and the vice president of China NGO Network for International Cooperation.)

(Translated by Fan Qin)

New Reform of the US Peace Corps and Old Problems for Foreign Aid Volunteers

Fan Yiyi

The United States once saw a “confusing” direction of the foreign aid development under the Trump administration. It was widely speculated that the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the Peace Corps were all faced multiple pressure for reform, such as budget cuts, institutional restructuring, and staff adjustment. As Josephine Olsen was appointed by the White House in January 2018 as director of the Peace Corps, the Peace Corps 2018-2022 Strategic Plan was published, setting the general direction of the reform on US foreign aid volunteers. The Peace Corps, with an annual budget of nearly \$400 million and up to 225,000 members dispatched to 141 countries all together, will continue its 57-year-old tradition in constant reform and renewal along a set direction.

I. New Reform of the Peace Corps

The year 2018 marks the beginning of the new Five-Year Plan of the Peace

Corps. Also, the adjustment and reform of foreign aid volunteers will begin this year, which will make the plan different from the past five years in many ways.

First of all, in terms of the aid budget scale and the number of members dispatched, the Trump administration has replaced the “massive expansion” strategy of the previous government with a “stable policy.” As early as 2010, the Obama administration proposed a target of 9,400 Peace Corps volunteers in 2012, and 11,000 in



2016. But contrary to expectations, Congress did not approve Obama's request for budget increase. Since 2010, the Peace Corps' budget had been reduced year by year, and the number of volunteers had dropped by 25% to only 6,818 in 2014, the lowest in five years. It was in 2016 that the budget increased for the first time in five years by 8%, and the number of dispatched volunteers rose to 7,213. The last five-year plan of the Peace Corps proposed to boost the number of dispatched volunteers to 10,000 by 2018 by continuously increasing the budget. However, the Trump administration filed a budget request of only \$398 million in FY2018, \$11.8 million (-2.9%) down from FY2017, and has already been approved by Congress. The target of expansion is difficult to achieve with such a budget. Thus we can basically conclude that the US Peace Corps under the Trump administration will register steady development and will not be the "focus" of US foreign aid reform.

Second, from the goals set in the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, we can see the key tasks and reform directions of the Peace Corps in the next five years. The new plan restates the three strategic goals that have been pursued since the promulgation of the Peace Corps Act of 1961, and aligns them with the new era. Particular importance is attached to the third goal "Bringing the World Home", which encourages Peace Corps volunteers to share their overseas experience after returning to the US and to continue volunteering, so as to increase Americans' understanding of global issues and other cultures.

Four strategic objectives and two management objectives for 2018-2022 have also been set out

in the new plan based on the strategic goals. The two types of objectives have specified the focus of adjustment and reform in the next five years in terms of volunteering itself and institutional management. Besides, each objective has its performance goals, including detailed numerical targets, and the responsibility of relevant executive department is also clearly stated.

The four strategic objectives are divided into 12 performance goals, some of which are worthy of particular attention, such as "Performance Goal 1.2: Assess the Peace Corps' Impact". Over the past few years, the Peace Corps has conducted a series of host country impact studies covering 24 countries, reviewing and assessing the local impact of the Program by interviewing peers, beneficiaries, host families, etc. Different from the host country impact study, the new plan proposes an all-round annual impact assessment which sums up excellent cases and experience across the globe, aiming to provide evidence and data in support of future strategic direction adjustment to improve the overall management of the Peace Corps. For example, the United States has always attached great importance to volunteers' learning and use of local languages in the belief that mastering the local language is of top priority for achieving the three Strategic Goals, and thus requires every Peace Corps volunteer to take a language test at the end of the two-year overseas mission. "Performance Goal 2.3: Improve Language Learning" sets a clear target and specifies that the percentage of volunteers who achieve the "advanced" level of language proficiency should reach 40% in 2019. In addition, regarding "Performance Goal 3.1: Establish Realistic Expectations of Service", it is stipulated



highly consistent goals who need to be managed according to a uniform standard. On the other hand, the volunteers come from a very diverse American society, and are sent to different countries and regions to work in various fields after short training. In the words of a US foreign aid expert, members of the Peace Corps are all “generalists”. Therefore, how

that by FY 2020, the messaging should be highly consistent to establish realistic expectations of service for applicants. Interestingly, this goal is placed in the subsection of “Strategic Objective 3: Volunteer Resilience”. So it can be seen that the Peace Corps is currently facing a problem of excessive publicity during its recruitment, which to a certain extent “romanticizes” the work of the Program and frustrates the volunteers who have arrived at the destination, bringing a negative effect on the effectiveness of the service.

II. Old Problems for US Foreign Aid Volunteers

The Peace Corps is a useful instrument for the US government to conduct public diplomacy and build up its international talent pool. For decades, the Peace Corps’ system has been constantly adjusted and improved to meet some “old problems” facing the volunteer team.

The first “old problem” is the difficult situation of volunteer team building. The Peace Corps is comprised of a large number of individuals with

to strike a balance between diversity and unity has always been a topic for the Peace Corps in the construction of personnel selection system.

The second “old problem” is the long-standing controversy about the term of volunteer service and the personnel composition. College graduates under the age of 30 contribute to more than 80% of the Peace Corps’ volunteer team. It is believed by some experts that the two-year term is too long for graduates today, discouraging many young talents from joining the Peace Corps, while some insist that the two-year period is a basic prerequisite for the goal of the Program, and that the reform should be focused on improving management and follow-up insurance rather than cutting down the service term. As for the personnel, some argue that more senior specialists should be dispatched in order to meet the growing demand for advanced technicians in developing countries. Although the Peace Corps recently plans to send Peace Corps Response, a team of experienced professionals for short-term assignments, from an objective perspective, the domestic labor structure of the US limits mass

outbound dispatch of experienced professionals.

The third “old problem” is the security of volunteers throughout their service. After the September 11 attack, volunteers’ personal safety came to be a primary concern of the Peace Corps again. In consideration of the relatively remote regions in developing countries where volunteers work and live as well as the almost 7,000 members dispatched every year, security issues become a matter of probability. The death of the volunteer Kate Puzey in Benin in 2009 and the subsequent sexual assaults reported drew much attention of the American society, and stricter requirements have since been imposed on the safety management of the Peace Corps. These incidents eventually pushed Congress to pass the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act named after the victim, providing legal protection for volunteers’ safety. Moreover, the medical security has always been highlighted. The US government has entrusted the International Medical Group (IMG) to manage the Program’s health care with considerable quantity of personnel and funds invested, and has specially recruited employees to help volunteers apply for medical insurance coverage.

The last one is the management team building of the Peace Corps. The Program has been implementing a five-year rotation of managers. In other words, labor contracts for managerial staff need renewal every five years instead of being permanent. 20% of managers are rotated every year, and volunteers can apply for management positions after returning, which keep the team young while increase the professionalism of

the management system. The Peace Corps also encourages its managers to take jobs in other institutions, constantly offering talents with Peace Corps experience to government departments, international organizations and universities, so as to expand its social influence. However, in recent years, the turnover rate of its managerial personnel has been higher than the planned 20%, bringing negative results such as insufficient labor in certain departments and poor social impressions. Therefore, the problems in the managerial personnel of the Peace Corps are also a focus of the recent reform.

III. Summary and Reflection

Since the inauguration of President Donald Trump, the Peace Corps has adhered to its historical traditions, insisting on incremental adjustment and steady growth, highlighting the sustainability of volunteer programs, improving effective and scientific management, and further addressing issues on volunteer composition and safety. The research on the Peace Corps should start with the goal system and management mechanism⁰, and should aim at an objective observation of the Program’s achievements and a clear understanding of common problems and challenges facing international volunteer programs, so as to avoid seeing only a fraction of the whole.

(The author works with the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Commerce, P.R. China. Translated by Yue Sangyu)

Lighting Africa with Love

——China Foundation for Peace and Development launched the “Lighting Africa” public welfare project

Wu Lin

[Editor's Note] China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD) is a non-governmental organization registered in China. The purpose of CFPD is to promote mutual understanding and common development through international non-governmental exchanges and cooperation. Since its inception in 2011, CFPD has launched nearly 60 livelihood projects in 14 countries.

On July 18, 2018, CFPD and the Tanzania China Friendship Association (TCFA) jointly held the launching ceremony of the "Lighting Africa" project -- Tanzania Station in Dar es Salaam. Mr. Song Tao, Minister of International Department of the Central Committee of Communist Party of China, Mme. Wang Ke, Chinese Ambassador to

Tanzania, Mr. Salim, President of the TCFA and former Tanzanian Prime Minister, Mr. Engeze, former provincial party secretary of the Tanzanian Revolutionary Party, and more than 800 people attended the event.

The “Lighting Africa” project is a livelihood project for public interest sponsored by CFPD and China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE). It aims to donate mobile energy equipment “Han Umbrella” to African countries in need to meet the basic household electricity requirement. In the upcoming year, China will provide 500 “Han Umbrella” equipments for charitable donations in Africa. The implementation of specific projects will be responsibility of CFPD.

Energy and education are two major problems in Africa's development.



According to a report released by the World Bank and the International Energy Agency, over one billion people in Africa have no access to stable power supply, and the electricity consumption per capita is the lowest around the world. The power supply is mainly dependent on diesel generators, with long-term risks of air pollution and health hazards. “Han Umbrella” equipment uses solar thin-film power generation technology to provide functions such as lighting and charging, and achieve “zero emission” of energy utilization. It has important social significance for Africa with insufficient power and sufficient sunlight.

As Minister Song Tao said in his speech, China and Tanzania are geographically far apart, but the Chinese people believe "Heart together, always be neighbor." Chinese-Tanzanian friendship has a long history and solid foundation. CFPD, TCFA and other organizations adhere to the friendly tradition and conduct pragmatic cooperation, make active efforts to effectively improve the lives of people in Tanzania's power-deficient areas and children's education. This is another new flower on the evergreen tree of Chinese-Tanzania

friendship. The CPC and Chinese government encourage and support the two countries to carry out more extensive and in-depth cooperation, especially in the private sector. We hope that more civil society organizations, enterprises and individuals will join the ranks of promoting development, improving people's livelihood and deepening Chinese-Tanzanian friendship, building a beautiful homeland, sharing prosperity and development.

Dr. Salim, Former Tanzanian Prime Minister and President of TCFA, said that Tanzania and China are all-weather good friends and brothers. China's help and support for African countries including Tanzania is heartfelt and unconditional. Today I am very happy to see the friendly gifts from Chinese civil organizations and feel the goodwill and sincerity of the Chinese people. I believe that the people-to-people exchanges between Tanzania and China will usher in a better tomorrow for the friendship between the two countries.



An Important Step forward in the Well-being Cooperation between China and Nepal: CNIE and Other Chinese NGOs' Visit to Nepal

Yang Le

The time-honored friendship between China and Nepal dates back to more than one thousand years ago. Monk Fa Xian of the Jin Dynasty and Monk Xuanzang of the Tang dynasty visited Lumbini (in the south of Nepal), the birthplace of the Buddha Shakyamuni. In Tang Dynasty, Nepal's Princess Bhrukuti was married to Sountzen Gampo. In Yuan Dynasty, Architect Arniko came to China to help supervise the construction of the White Pagoda Temple. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations on August 1, 1955, the traditional friendship and friendly cooperation between China and Nepal have continued to develop. The high-level exchanges between the two countries are quite close, with successive Nepalese kings and prime ministers having visited China many times.

In June 2018, when meeting with the visiting Nepalese Prime Minister K.P. Oli, President Xi Jinping pointed out that faced with new development opportunities in China-Nepal relations, the two sides should expand high-level exchanges, strengthen strategic communication, continue to adhere to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, respect and accommodate each other's core interests and concerns, consolidate the political foundation of China-Nepal relations, and enhance the level of bilateral ties politically. China is willing to strengthen cooperation with Nepal in the areas of infrastructure integration, post-disaster reconstruction, investment and trade under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, and build all-round cooperation with win-win results.

The two sides should enhance cultural exchanges, create new highlights in cultural cooperation and people-to-people bonds so as to generate public support for the friendship between the two nations. Oli said that Nepal is willing to expand cooperation with China under the new circumstances. He spoke highly of the idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind proposed by President Xi and expressed his willingness to actively participate in the





development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The interaction between the top leaders of the two countries has laid a solid political foundation for the exchanges between the NGOs of the two countries. In this context, at the invitation of the Social Welfare Council of Nepal, China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), together with 24 national and regional NGOs of China, including China Foundation for Peace and Development, China Charity Alliance, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, Sichuan NGO Association for International Exchanges, Gansu NGO Association for International Exchanges and Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges, visited Nepal from July 28 to 31, 2018 to carry out projects for people's livelihood, promoting exchanges and cooperation between China and Nepal. This was the first time for Chinese NGOs to visit Nepal collectively on such a large scale. With massive participation and positive response from Nepalese communities, it marked an important step forward in the cooperation between China and Nepal. The main activities were as follows:

1) China-Nepal NGOs Project Pairing-up Meeting. On the morning of the July 29, CNIE and the Social Welfare Council of Nepal jointly held the meeting attended by around 100 representatives of 59 NGOs and media outlets from China and Nepal. The two sides talked about potential cooperation in the fields of education, poverty alleviation, medical care, disaster

prevention and relief, which was the first time Chinese and Nepalese NGOs carried out these activities on such a large scale for the projects important to the improvement of people's livelihood. CNIE Secretary-General Zhu Rui said in his speech that in recent years, the NGOs of China and Nepal have carried out a series of fruitful cooperation in poverty alleviation, education, disaster prevention and relief, and

cultural exchanges, signaling the new highlights in the people-to-people exchanges between the two countries and making positive contribution to the improvement of the living standards of Nepalese people. As both China and Nepal are in a critical period of development, the two peoples should inherit and carry forward the spirit of friendship passed down from generation to generation, support each other and seek common development in our respective roads towards realizing our dreams. CNIE will coordinate more Chinese NGOs to conduct more projects and events in Nepal to benefit Nepalese people with our concrete actions and outcomes.

2) Contract-Signing ceremony for the livelihood projects between Chinese and Nepalese NGOs. On the afternoon of July 19, CNIE and the Social Welfare Council of Nepal jointly held the contract-signing ceremony. The ceremony was attended by Tham Maya Thapa, President of the Social Welfare Council of Nepal, Wang Yajun, CNIE advisor and Vice Minister of the IDCPC, and Yu Hong, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal. Wang Yajun pointed out that people-to-people exchanges are an important part of China-Nepal relations. The signing between the Social Welfare Council and the CNIE is the first time that the committee has signed an cooperation agreement with a foreign umbrella social organization, which reflects that the Nepalese side attach great importance to the people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. It is hoped that the Chinese and Nepalese social organizations will

continue to do a good job in project cooperation, and steadily promote related projects to ensure that each project becomes a flagship one embodying the China-Nepal friendship. Thapa said that the cooperation projects signed here can enhance the well-being of the Nepalese people and promote the further development of the people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. The Nepalese government has set the goal of “Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepalese” and I hope that various social organizations working in Nepal can contribute to the realization of this goal. 11 Chinese organizations, including CNIE, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, Sichuan Overseas Exchange Association, Sichuan Association for International Exchanges, Amity Foundation, and Gansu Rainbow Volunteer Center signed 13 cooperation agreements or MOUs with Nepal organizations, covering areas such as education, poverty alleviation, agriculture, women and youth training.

3) Organizing a ceremony for Chinese NGOs to donate materials to Nepal. On the afternoon of July 30, the donation ceremony was held at the MAV Middle School in Kathmandu, Nepal. The event was jointly organized by the CNIE and the Social Welfare Council of Nepal. Wang Yajun, CNIE advisor and Vice Minister of the IDCPC, attended the ceremony. Those who gave the speeches at the ceremony included a Nepalese parliamentarian and member of the Executive Committee of the Nepal Communist Party, CNIE Secretary-General

Zhu Rui, Vice President of China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation Wang Xingzui, and Principal of MAV. At the ceremony, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation distributed 300 schoolbags to Nepalese students. The

Beijing Ci Ai Charity Foundation donated 30 sports balls to Nepalese children. Previously, the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation also built a two-story school building and a computer classroom for MAV, which will be delivered in 2019. In addition, the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation had raised a total of 13.32 million yuan in the earthquake relief efforts and put in 12.02 million yuan, benefiting 246,500 locals.

4) Field visit to the projects conducted by Chinese NGOs in Nepal. On July 30, the CNIE delegation visited the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation’s office in Nepal and the post-disaster reconstruction and livelihood development project in Bhaktapur County conducted by the Amity Foundation. The delegation also went deep into the community to exchange ideas with the TFN and women in the “GRACE” community group. Through cooperation with local organizations, the Amity Foundation conducted post-disaster reconstruction and livelihood development projects in Nepal, covering areas of housing reconstruction, improvement of living facilities, community group building, resident’s livelihood capacity building, and education support. The urgent need of groups and communities affected

by the earthquake was met, and the capacity for sustainable development was improved for the whole groups and community.

These activities were widely welcomed by Nepalese officials and the general public. The Nepalese NGOs extensively participated in various activities, and the media such as the National Television of Nepal, Himalaya Times, and Kathmandu Post covered these events.



(CNIE)

The delegation of CNIE Attends 2018 Civil BRICS Forum

Ma Jingjing

From June 25 to 26, 2018 Civil BRICS Forum was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. This Forum was co-hosted by Economic Justice Network and National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) of South Africa. Over one hundred CSO representatives from South Africa, China, India, Russia and other developing countries joined the Forum. China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) sent a delegation to attend the Forum. Themed on “BRICS and 2063 Agenda”, the Forum has seen in-depth discussions on topics such as New Development Bank, inclusive economic development, peace and security and gender equality, and approved Policy Recommendations of Civil BRICS as the outcome document, which was later submitted to the BRICS summit.

The Civil Society: Supporters of the BRICS cooperation

The BRICS cooperation has now entered the second “golden decade”. Since the establishment of the cooperation mechanism, BRICS countries have conducted cooperation in economic, financial, infrastructure, development, environmental protection and other sectors, pushing the world to develop in a more balanced and reasonable way on behalf of emerging economies. In recent years, the BRICS civil society has grown up, and CSOs have played an increasingly important role in promoting BRICS cooperation. In 2015 and 2016, Russia and India held the first and second Civil BRICS Forum respectively which have raised the voice of the civil society and contributed to BRICS



cooperation from the perspective of CSOs. Last year China held the BRICS Political Parties, Think Tanks and Civil Society Organizations Forum in Fujian, facilitating the dialogues and communication among political parties, think tanks and civil society organizations of BRICS countries as well as other developing countries.

Although the Civil BRICS Forum is yet to be institutionalized, it has won the support of BRICS countries and attracted the participation of numerous CSO representatives. The Civil BRICS Forum can offer a civil perspective to government officials, air the voice of various groups, build a constructive platform for the civil society of BRICS countries, strengthen the civil and social foundation for BRICS cooperation, and also popularize the results of BRICS cooperation to improve its international impact.

Johannesburg Gathering: warm-up to the BRICS summit

Held prior to the 10th BRICS summit, this year's Civil BRICS cover a wide range of social and economic topics, focusing on six key areas, namely, inclusive economic development, mining, agriculture and climate change, New Development Bank, gender equality, youth development and peace and security, in an effort to put forward pragmatic suggestions to strengthen BRICS cooperation. According to the representatives, CSOs should strengthen dialogues to maintain smooth communication, further study cooperation and development strategies, offer innovative ideas and actions, and air the common voice for enhanced BRICS cooperation. More progress in the BRICS cooperation should not be limited in infrastructure or trade, but also in ecological protection, fairness and justice, as well as social equality through redistribution of wealth. We should pay more attention to social and cultural development. It is suggested that the state and the government should increase their supply and input in public goods, pay more attention to research in

education, livelihood and science, accommodate the interest of poverty-stricken and disadvantaged people, and create a favorable environment for inclusive development.

The representatives also suggested making good use of the exchanges among the civil society as "Track 3" of BRICS cooperation to facilitate the people-to-people communication and cooperation, following "Track 1" (diplomatic and government channels) and "Track 2" (semi-official channels such as the BRICS Think Tank Council and Business Council). More efforts should be exerted to expand the impact of CSOs on the decision-making process, improve the cultural and social foundation of BRICS cooperation, and further promote people-to-people exchanges and South-South cooperation.

China's Input at Civil BRICS

As Deputy Secretary-General Liu Kaiyang said in his opening remarks, the topics of this year's Civil BRICS cover a wide range of social and economic development sectors, showcasing the responsibilities and clout of NGOs on the international arena. We look forward to learning more about the development of BRICS countries in certain sectors from the perspective



of CSOs, and contribute to non-governmental activities within the framework of the BRICS. He also briefed the audience on last year's BRICS Political Parties, Think Tanks and Civil Society Organizations Forum held in Fujian, and expressed his expectation for enhanced cooperation among CSOs in poverty-alleviation, hygiene and environmental protection, with closer people-to-people bonds.

Mr. Liu then put forward three suggestions for future Civil BRICS: first, he suggested CSOs strengthening regular communication and consultation with the government. CSOs are encouraged to participate in side meetings and forums of official events to express views and make suggestions, set up on-line platforms to collect public opinions and send the feedbacks to the government regularly. Second, he suggested further expanding people-to-people exchanges among BRICS countries and build wider partnerships. CSOs should further tap their potentials to serve as the bridge for exchanges, be committed to improve the cooperation among BRICS countries as well as the cooperation with other emerging economies and developing countries, and jointly build a wider platform for development and cooperation. Third, he

suggested pairing BRICS cooperation with other development plans from a civil perspective. For example, BRICS countries overlap with China's Belt and Road partners, who shoulder the common task of promoting development. Efforts can be exerted to pair up BRICS cooperation and the Belt and Road initiative, and the experience of the BRICS cooperation can serve as reference for the Belt and Road initiative to sustain inclusive growth. Then Mr. Liu mentioned that CNIE initiated Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network (SIRONET) last year and staged its first forum in Beijing. More than 300 CSOs from over 60 countries and regions have joined SIRONET. CNIE would like to build SIRONET into an effective platform for CSOs partners along the Belt and Road to exchange information, coordinate actions and strengthen cooperation, and contribute to BRICS cooperation through people-to-people exchanges.

Other Chinese CSO representatives from CNIE and Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges also spoke on inclusive economic development, youth exchanges, poverty alleviation and assistance to disabled people.

(Translated by Ma Jingjing)



Booster for achieving the sustainable development agenda

——Chinese social organizations attends the 2018 UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

On July 9, the 2018 United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development was grandly opened at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) organized a number of social organizations in China to attend the forum, held a theme seminar, and participated in the photo exhibition of the forum.

1. Brief introduction to the forum

The eight-day forum focused on the progress made by 47 countries in implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals and other related topics.

Liu Zhenmin, Deputy Secretary-general for economic and social affairs of the United Nations, said in his opening speech that the international

community had committed to eradicating poverty and hunger, protecting the planet, creating a peaceful society and promoting economic, social and technological progress three years ago. At present, the proportion of the world's extremely poor people has fallen sharply, from 27% in 2000 to 9% in 2017.

Liu Zhenmin pointed out that although some achievements have been made, there are still many problems to be solved: the number of hungry people is increasing, from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016. 4.5 billion people cannot get formal health services. 2.1 billion people have no access to safe water. Urbanization, agricultural development and population surges put enormous pressure on natural resources. Land degradation threatens security and development. Global warming and climate change-related events



are increasing. In the past 10 years, the number of conflicts has increased which has displaced millions of people and caused problems in food supplies in 18 countries, of which 74 million are in desperate need of assistance.

Marie Chatardová, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the organizer of the forum, stressed that achieving these goals requires not only the dedication and goodwill of governments, but also the joint efforts of social society, the private sector, academia and other relevant parties. .

The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is held annually, including a three-day ministerial meeting. The theme of the forum was “Transformation to a Sustainable and Resilience Society” with more than 80 ministers and deputy ministers and 2,500 NGO members attending the forum.

2.The seminar themed on “China's Role in the Global Partnership to Achieve the SDGs”

As one of the side events of the forum, the seminar themed on “China's Role in the Global Partnership to Achieve the SDGs” hosted by CNIE and Mercy Corps was held in New York on July 10. About 60 representatives from the United Nations Secretariat, the permanent missions to the United Nations, relevant think tanks, and civil organizations attended the meeting. Zhu Rui, Secretary-General of CNIE, said in his opening speech that social organizations have made considerable progress in the past 40 years of reform and opening up. The UN Sustainable Development Agenda provides an important platform for social organizations to participate in global governance at all levels, and also provides an important opportunity for Chinese social organizations to go out and participate in international cooperation. The Chinese social organization is willing to communicate with global partners in an open and cooperative manner, and carry out international cooperation in various fields closely related to the UN sustainable development



agenda, such as poverty alleviation, environmental protection, new energy development, and charity. He called on the international community to learn more about China's social organizations and work together to achieve the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Ambassador Ma Zhaoxu, Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, said in his keynote speech that China, as the largest developing country in the world, has always insisted on development as the top priority. China implements the 2030 Agenda in line with the 13th Five-year Plan and national middle and long term development strategy. Guided by the vision of innovation, coordination, green development, openness and benefit for all, China ensures coordinated implementation of the building in economy, politics, culture, society and ecology. China vigorously promotes the Belt and Road Initiative to advance the sustainable development of the countries along the route. Belt and Road initiative highly matches the 2030 Agenda and they well complement each other in jointly promoting the undertaking of international development and cooperation.

Marc Dorel, Acting Head of the NGO Section of

the ECOSOC Department, made a special speech. He expressed his high appreciation for the active participation of Chinese social organizations in the sustainable development agenda and achievements. He hoped that more Chinese organizations would apply for the consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council and participate more in the agenda and activities of the UN in order to contribute to the realization of a better future for mankind.

Representatives from China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, China Ecological Civilization Research and Promotion Association, All-China Environment Federation, Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization and other domestic social organizations introduced their work and achievements in the field of sustainable development. In conjunction with their respective projects in China, representatives of Mercy Corps and the American Environmental Protection Association shared their experiences and expectations of cooperation with Chinese social organizations and offered suggestions for going global of Chinese social organizations.

During the interactive stage of the conference, the participants held heated discussions on the development environment of Chinese social organizations and the ways and appeals of cooperation with foreign organizations. They spoke highly of China's important role in promoting sustainable development and fully affirmed the positive significance of the "Belt and Road Initiative" to promote sustainable development

goals along the route.

3.Photo exhibition of "China's Sustainable Development: the Role of Social Organizations"

As one of the supporting activities of the forum, CNIE, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, China Environmental Protection Foundation, All-China Environment Federation, China Ecological Civilization Research and Promotion Association, Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges, Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization jointly organized a photo exhibition entitled "China's Sustainable Development: The Role of Social Organizations" in the United Nations Headquarters Building which introduced the achievements of Chinese social organizations in promoting sustainable development in recent years from the following five aspects: "environmental protection", "energy modernization", "sustainable cities and community development", "poverty reduction" and "global partnership". All of this expresses the willingness of Chinese social organizations to communicate with global partners in an open and cooperative manner and the wish to contribute to building a common home for mankind and shaping the common future of mankind. The photo exhibition has attracted the attention of representatives from various countries.

(Translated by Bian Peilin)



CNIE Delegation Attends the C20 Summit 2018 in Argentina

The C20 Summit 2018 (C20), co-organized by Poder Ciudadano and RACI, was held in Argentina on August 6 and 7. Wang Jingen, Deputy Secretary-General of the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) attended the summit and spoke at the parallel session “Maintaining the C20 momentum towards 2020: What has civil society learned from recent experiences in China, Germany and Argentina”.

The main topics of this C20 summit include inequality, climate change, sustainable development, gender equality, anti-corruption, education, health and infrastructure. Argentine President Mauricio Macri attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech. Macri praised this C20 for its constructive contribution to the G20 summit. He said: "This is the first time the G20 and its engagement events are held in South America. I hope that the C20 Summit will promote more just and sustainable development. In response to the common challenges facing today's world, the government, private sector, the general public and non-governmental organizations should make their respective contributions. Civil society plays an important role in promoting dialogues and seeking social consensus." Macri also accepted a policy recommendation drafted by more than 600 civil society organizations from over 40 countries. The policy recommendations cover eight areas, including anti-corruption, international financial architecture, education and employment integration, climate, environment and energy,



gender equality, investment and infrastructure, from local to global, and global health, calling on G20 leaders to create conditions within the C20 framework to enable civil society organizations to play an active role.

This year's C20 host organized a parallel session “Maintaining the C20 momentum towards 2020: What has civil society learned from recent experiences in China, Germany and Argentina”. Deputy Secretary-General Wang Jingen shared the experience of CNIE in successfully hosting the Civil Society 20 China 2016 in Qingdao. First, the theme of the C20 was close to that of the G20, reflecting the concerns of the civil society and general public. The discussions were relevant to the society and presented plausible solutions to



the common challenges facing the world today. Second, a communiqué recognized by most participating organizations was formed, later submitted as the outcome document to the G20 Summit and attention was paid to the follow-up implementation efforts. Third, in the preparatory process, civil society gained the active support of the government, and the good interaction between the government and the civil society enabled the latter to play a better role in providing effective suggestions for social governance and contributing its wisdom. His speech was positively received by hosts of C20 summits of 2017 and 2018 as well as the CSOs of many developing countries. Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation,

the host of 2019's C20 summit, said that it would actively learn from the CNIE's experience and strengthen cooperation with the CNIE under the C20 framework.

The C20 this year continues to advocate for the reform of the global governance model, pursue sustainable development and social equality, vigorously promote anti-corruption and gender mainstreaming, and pay attention to the rights of women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. In addition to the representatives from civil society organizations of the G20 countries, many representatives from CSOs of Latin America and African countries also attended the summit. They suggested that the C20 should give adequate consideration to the different development stages of different countries and pay more attention to the least developed countries when drafting and discussing policy recommendations. The representatives of the Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation, the organizer of the C20 summit next year, said that they would consider inviting more representatives of CSOs from Asian countries and pay more attention to the needs of civil society of Asian developing countries.



China-Africa Relationship: the Views of African Leaders and Friends

Editor's note: From the 23rd to 24th July, 2018, the 5th China-Africa People's Forum was held in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China. Our African friends and leaders agreed that, in recent years, the China-Africa relationship has been raised to a new stage and entered a new era. They hope that the Beijing Summit and China-Africa People's Forum can push forward China-Africa collaborations into deeper and expanded areas. Here is the sum-up of the views of the politicians and guests who have attended the Forum.

H.E. Vincent Meriton, the Vice President of Seychelles, says the Africa-China cooperation has seen tremendous advancement in building an everlasting peaceful and prosperous world, as well as promoting common development and progress. He believes that the communication between civil societies would help to facilitate cooperation. Both Africa and China boast considerable NGOs which can play a special role in environment, hygiene, education, economic, and cultural sectors. The government should provide continued and increased support for cooperation between the peoples, guarantee legal and institutional foundations and provide necessary infrastructure. The government, NGOs and enterprises should work together for developing the Africa-China relationship. He hopes the research institutions of Seychelles can build partnerships with related Chinese institutions. The Belt and Road initiative, he emphasizes, could realize a win-win situation for both Africa and China. Seychelles expects to sign the Belt and Road cooperation documents with China during the Beijing Summit of the Forum of China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), so that Seychelles can be deeply involved in the Belt and Road cooperation.

H.E. Clement Mouamba, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo, says that ever since the Republic of the Congo established diplomatic relations with China, the connection between the two countries has been very close. The relationship has been developing comprehensively. Our two countries have partnered in sectors such as education, medical service and infrastructure which have effectively improved the living condition of the Congolese people. In recent years, the practical win-win relationship between the Republic of the Congo and China has seen continual advancement. China has become the biggest trading partner of the Republic of the Congo, and set a good example for Africa-China cooperation. He expressed his gratefulness to China. China, as a responsible leading power, values and supports the development of Africa-China cooperation and people-to-people communication. President Xi's recent visit has shown clearly that the Chinese leaders have greatly pushed forward the Africa-China relationship. The Republic of the Congo will make full use of its institutions based in China to seize more opportunities to promote people-to-people communication and cooperation with China, laying a solid foundation of future cooperation.

H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, former President of Tanzania believes that the cooperation between African nations and China is based on the solid foundation of mutual respect, support and benefit. China has built diplomatic relations with Tanzania since 1964. The bilateral relationship has been continuously enhancing and developing. In recent years, the value of investment and trade between Africa and China has grown rapidly. Meanwhile, China is the main source of investment and provides technological assistance. He expressed gratitude that China has always led the way in providing assistance to Africa. The Beijing Summit of FOCAC will strengthen and inject new vitality into the Africa-China relationship. Concerning the doubts of some western countries, he explained that “Only the African people can judge the African issue”. The African people are very clear about what they need and feel satisfied over the ongoing Africa-China alliance. The African nations are experiencing growth and development due to the support from the Chinese government and people.

Mr. Azhari Eltigani Ahmed, Deputy Secretary-General of the Council of African Political Parties noted that China is an ancient civilization which enjoys a long history. The Chinese people are very industrious and brave; they manage to develop good relationships with other countries in the world, especially with nations in Africa. The Chinese partnership with other countries relies on mutual benefit, rather than power politics, bullying others or hegemony. He is looking forward to strengthening China-Africa partnerships through social integration, stability and tolerance, thereby enhancing the China-Africa cultural and educational communication and cooperation. Africa and China should actively support the development of NGOs and promote a good social environment for the development of Africa-China relationship.

Mr. Benon Mugarura, the Chairman of the Uganda-

China Friendship Association expects to further enhance the communication between Uganda and China, build the Africa-China community for a common future. He suggested at first emphasizing cooperation between China and Africa in infrastructure, especially transportation and electricity, in order to create the necessary conditions for the development of Africa. Second, to increase cooperation in technology to provide motives for the development of Africa. Third, to focus on partnerships in industry and agriculture, helping to realize Africa’s modernization in both areas.

Mr. Hhdj Bouchoucha, the Head of Social Relief and Support Bureau of Blida, Algeria, says Algeria and China have enjoyed a long history of friendship. Under the leadership of his president, Algeria feels very proud to be a brother-like friend of China. The strategic partnership of Algeria and China has deepened steadily in all areas. He believes that the relationship between Algeria and China can take another step forward. He believes the 5th China-Africa People’s Forum, and the Beijing Summit of FOCAC will offer more ways to strengthen the Algerian and Chinese partnership, as well as Africa-China cooperation.

Abdelmoneim Elsoni Ahmed Abdalla, Secretary General of the Council for International People's Friendship, Sudan says that China’s policy toward Africa is based on mutual respect, fairness and justice. China’s cooperation with Africa doesn’t attach any political strings or interference. China’s investment in Africa is conducted with mutual benefit, and is supported by more and more African people. I would say, the China-Africa cooperative partnership has changed African people’s lives comprehensively. Sudan in particular, is supported greatly by China in its sustainable development. China has been continuously investing in Sudan for decades, which is a huge boost for Sudan’s

economy, the improvement of people's living standards and political-social stability. On both the international and regional stage, China has been supporting Sudan firmly. Therefore, the Chinese have become Sudan's favorite foreign friends. In order to further China-Africa cooperation, especially people-to-people understanding, trust and NGO cooperation, he proposed to establish China-Africa NGO Alliance, and an on-line forum for communication.

Mme. Rose Ntawe, Chairman of WAP-BURUNDI, says ever since the Independence Movement of Africa, the China-Africa relationship has been developing steadily. Burundi stands as the witness to the China-Africa friendship. Currently, with the efforts of President Nkurunziza and President Xi, the scale of Burundi-China cooperation has expanded in an unprecedented way, covering areas such as rice planting techniques, reservoir construction, university, hospitals and other infrastructure. Over the decades, the Chinese people have stood together with the people of Burundi. China has been supporting Burundi in multilateral stages and providing assistance to Burundi for development, which has explained the principle of win-win progress. During all these years, Chinese NGOs and companies have always backed up the development of Africa. This, in return, has gained the respect of African people and helped them to know more about China. As a representative of African NGOs, we would like to be the catalyst of the China-Africa relationship, the impeller of China-Africa friendship and the source of power that develops China-Africa people-to-people friendship. We will comprehensively push forward the development of the China-Africa relationship.

Joshau Magawa, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer,
COMMITATO INAZONALE DEPOPOLI(CISP),

Malawi, says Africa is a continent with considerable developing countries. He is very thankful for the selfishness assistance of China. He hopes Africa can achieve economic and social development as China has once accomplished. He believes that to improve African productivity and ability is an important aspect of developing the China-Africa relationship. He hopes that more high-quality African goods will be exported to China. China has set a good example for Africa in this regard.

Mr. Nicholas Ekow Anesi De-Heer, Director of the Planning Department, Institute for Financial Studies, Ghana, says the friendship between China and Africa has a long history. China and Africa share both a common history and a vision for development. This has helped to enhance the China-Africa relationship. For the last forty years, the Chinese economy has been developing rapidly. China has developed from a low-income country to the second biggest economy in the world. This sets a strong example for Africa and provides great encouragement. China's development is creating new opportunities for the development of African nations. In modern history, Africa has suffered from invasion and oppression by colonialism. African nations cherish their hard-won independence and new opportunities for future development. The relationship between China and Africa is based on mutual benefit, which guarantees a steady and long China-Africa relationship. At present, the African countries are aiming at industrialization and agricultural modernization. We hope to gain continuous support from China. With the efforts of two sides, the China-Africa relationship will embrace an even brighter future.

(Translated by Zhong Peilin)

Promoting People-Centered Arab Chinese Cooperation

Kassem Tofailli

Allow me, first, to express our pleasure and appreciation of becoming one of Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network SIRONET members. We look forward to playing an effective role as the first Arab organization to join your organization.

This year holds special significance. It marks the 40th anniversary of China's embarking on a journey of reform and renovation, and the 5th since the Belt and Road Initiative(BRI) was announced by President Ji Jinping in 2013. We congratulate the Chinese people for their amazing achievements as they continue to march towards new heights. It is deeply gratifying for us to be able to share the celebrations of these momentous occasions with the Chinese people.

The success of the economic reforms adopted by the Chinese government and communist party has demonstrated that the Chinese model of development is more creative and flexible than most other systems in the world today. Our countries can benefit from adopting some of the types of "inclusive" economic policies that have worked in China. Furthermore, the renewed interest on the part of the Chinese government in expanding ties with the Arab region (as manifested through the BRI) gives an added momentum to this idea.

Time has proven that despite all the obstacles from here and there the BRI continues to be an initiative of epic proportions. It promises to bring development and prosperity and has become a

beacon of hope for millions of people all over the countries involved. But the truth is that BRI is more than just an economic initiative. It is a true embodiment of China's long-standing policy towards shared global governance, a policy based on a win-win philosophy, where the creative initiatives from different countries and communities are combined to create a model of what the shared future of mankind should look like.

Who are We?

Our association -- Arab Chinese Cooperation and Development Association (ACCD) -- is an independent NGO established on the principal of strengthening economic and cultural relationships between Chinese and Arab people. We believed that these relations are not to be confined to businesses and public officials, but should include regular people from all walks of life. The exchanges and cooperation envisioned under the BRI can only genuinely succeed if it is fully embraced at all levels of society. Our association seeks to implement that vision by tapping into the huge, but underused, potentials of people at the grassroots level. Our objective is to play a modest role in pushing forward China-Arab relations from that holistic perspective.

The Overall Context in which ACCD Emerges and Operates

As the world continues its transformation to a multi-polar, multi-cultural system, it becomes

apparent that China and the Arab states should cooperate a lot more on issues of economic and social development. This is based not only on a common heritage, but also on a joint vision that international relations can, and should be, founded on mutual benefit and respect.

The Arab states are important partners for China in the development process. The Chinese government and communist party have always approached Chinese-Arab relations strategically. Their ultimate objective has been to create lasting peace, stability, and justice. For that purpose, these relations have always featured the following principles:

- Mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- Mutual non-aggression.
- Mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs.
- Equality and mutual benefit.
- Peaceful co-existence

In faithful representation of these guiding principles, the BRI included the following objectives with respect to the Arab states:

- Coordinating development strategies and contributing to those strategies as needed and feasible and in manners that utilize each country's comparative advantage and potential.
- Coordinating investment projects and focusing on those projects that generate mutual benefits for Chinese and Arab enterprises.
- Enhancing cooperation in the sectors of construction, nuclear power, telecommunications, agriculture, and finance.
- Enhancing cooperation in trade via openness and reciprocity.
- Promoting social development through cooperating in the sectors of healthcare, education and human resources, science and technology, and environmental protection.
- Promoting cultural exchange through cooperating in the sectors of broadcasting, filming, television, and press.

In addition, one of the pillars of China's policy, as

confirmed by President Xi Jinping in his speech at the Arab League in Cairo, Egypt, in 2016, is China's continued support for the Palestinian people: "China firmly supports the Middle East peace process and supports the establishment of a State of Palestine enjoying full sovereignty on the basis of the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital. We understand the legitimate aspirations of Palestine to integrate into the international community as a state." The Arab people will forever be grateful for this position.

The Arab Chinese Cooperation and Development Association draws upon the above system of beliefs and objectives as it develops its action plans. We will seek to implement a variety of projects and programs to promote our economic, cultural, and educational agenda. Further, we aim to be active in Arab Countries through affiliations with existing organizations that share the same value system. Our association will also strive to become a platform for people-to-people bonding by inviting prominent and influential Arab and Chinese community and business leaders to communicate on ways to reach the shared goals and objectives.

Our Program of Action

Our program is driven by the needs and aspirations of our societies.

Our countries need genuine and sustainable development with local characteristics. Therefore, one of our association's primary aims is to learn, and spread knowledge about, the experience of China with locally-driven development. Our countries need appropriate and affordable technologies. Therefore, one of our themes will be the promotion of viable and productive technology transfer from China. Our countries need alternative energy resources in order to achieve both sustainable development as well as economic diversification. We know that China is the world's leading nation in electricity production from renewable energy sources. Therefore, we aspire to serve as a link between Chinese and

Arab engineering firms (as well as energy policy-makers) on how the alternative energy programs of China can be adapted to the needs of the region.

On a broader level our countries need to develop and implement a more balanced trade strategy with China. We need to move from the unidirectional pattern that we now have towards a more bilateral and diversified pattern.

We hope to be able to contribute to that objective through a variety of activities that we are planning. The list of possibilities is endless, and contains numerous other areas where closer ties will promote mutual benefits.

Over the next two years, ACCDA will work on the following themes:

1) Economic and Social Development:

a) Technology transfer, with special focus on small and micro enterprises (SMEs). Our planned activities in this domain include expert conferences and specialized technology exhibitions in some Arab countries with special attention to matching the actual market needs for more effective results. In this regard, our association signed a strategic partnership agreement with Silk Road Zhongguancun Science Park in Beijing (ZBRA): <http://www.zpark.com.cn/en/>. This park is considered the Silicon Valley of China. Our agreement aims at promoting further links between Chinese technology companies and Arab SME's, startups, and innovation incubators. Additionally, we are co-jointly organizing technology expo and forum to start in Spring 2019 and eventually moved to different Arab countries. We also give special importance to cooperating with the Arab Chinese Center for Technology Transfer and the Arab Chinese Center for the Telecommunication Technology. We are actively organizing Arab Youth participation in this center's periodic training sessions.

b) Export promotion and facilitation. Thanks to

China's policies to open-up its market especially for Silk Road countries, we are joining forces with Arab business especially with Union of Arab Chambers of commerce to promote import of Arab products into the Chinese markets. We are paying great attention to the first international import expo which will be held this November in Shanghai as a milestone in opening the Chinese market further. We are planning to launch joint programs with Arab Chambers of Commerce including organizing Arab participation at import expos across China, organizing

training programs to spread knowledge related to procedures, product adaptation, marketing and distribution, quality control and Chinese market entry requirements and procedures. We also plan to keep close contact with the newly formed International Import Bureau (CIIB) to promote further participation of Arab companies at this important expo platform. ACCDA immediate goal is to promote establishing a permanent showroom for Arab products in China which will serve as a base for Arab suppliers seeking to enter the Chinese market and as a base to access different cities in China.

Along that, we are proud to be working closely with several Chinese agencies including China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and China Chamber of International Commerce (CCOIC) to implement the above goals.

c) Banking and Financial Services: With the increasing economic and financial global role of China and the increasing role of the Union of Arab Banks as an effective instrument in the regional and international arena, our association considers that there is a vital area for financial and investment cooperation between the two sides. We are also cognizant of Arab banks' needs for a variety of services to assist them implement their strategies in the Chinese market. ACCDA plans to cooperate with the Union of Arab Banks for an effective execution of our mutual objectives in China.

2) Cultural and Artistic Exchange:

Our association aims to play a growing role in promoting Arab-Chinese exchanges in culture, education, and tourism. We are planning to promote activities in these sectors in Lebanon and other Arab countries as well as inside China with special attention to youth joint programs.

a) Art and Music:

We are currently preparing joint working sessions between Arab and Chinese musicians in an effort to create musical collaborations. Also we are preparing to organize dance, acrobatics, and lantern lighting shows in some Arab countries and China. We are also working on organizing “Chinese Movie Week” in different parts of the Arab world. At the same time, we are coordinating with some Chinese art galleries and organizations to organize Arab art exhibitions in China.

b) Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM):

We strongly believe in promoting TCM as an alternative and viable means to ease human suffering from pain and diseases and improve people’s quality of life. As TCM gains further worldwide recognition, the idea of establishing more TCM centers in the Arab region gains momentum, becoming more feasible than ever before. Along with that is the increased potential to promote the studying of Chinese medicine at local universities as well as sponsoring Arab students to study it in China. We are currently working to conclude agreements with a leading university and a Chinese medicine hospital in China to bring their knowledge and viable treatments to wider patients. In this context, we are proud that our vice president Dr. Jamil Hodeib, a renowned doctor of Chinese medicine, was selected recently as one of Arab influencers who has had significant contributions to Arab Chinese Friendship.

c) Education and Tourism:

Our planned activities include providing

information to prospective college students interested in studying in China by participating in certain college drive events. We want to promote Chinese language courses for business owners and traders especially e-learning by partnering with existing programs in China. Finally, we would like to promote Silk Road tourist tours by Chinese business groups to Arab countries and vice versa and encourage more purposeful twinning of cities and villages based on specific mutual projects.

In conclusion we thank you again for this unique opportunity to participate in a process that will lead to genuine and inclusive development for millions of people around the world. We plan to participate actively and periodically in conferences and policy forums that are held in China on the BRI and other issues of relevance to the Middle East in order to benefit from the experiences of other countries involved in the BRI and network with like-minded associations from these countries. As our association is also an active member of the Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce (SRCIC), we plan to merge the experiences and connections gained from both memberships in order to bring about a real, tangible, and sustainable difference. Thank you and good luck forward.

Kassem Tofailli:

President of Arab Chinese Cooperation & Development Association, Chairman of Silk Road Commerce & Consulting company, Deputy director of China Arab States Expo, Ningxia Friendship Ambassador with the Arab and Peoples of the World, Founding partner of East-West Gate International Corporation (an American consulting and trading company in operation for 25 years)

Civil Society Alliance Forum (CSAF), Cambodia: a bridge

**between NGOs and government for people-to-people connectivity,
mutual understanding and shared prosperity in Cambodia and beyond**

It is generally acknowledged that NGOs have played a crucial role in every society. After all, NGOs constitute one of the pillars of a well-functioning society; the other two being the state and private sector. Indeed, their roles are growing in importance in promoting peace, livelihood improvement, poverty alleviation and inclusive development both in domestic and international arenas. They help deliver certain public goods and services and provide socio-economic opportunities to the poor sectors of the society, complimenting those provided by the governments. Thus, NGOs are an important partner of governments in jointly addressing particular social issues. With a specific

reason for their existence; that is, their mission, NGOs generally can tailor their interventions to the specific needs of a particular community, rendering their service delivery relatively effective.

To strengthen the roles of NGOs so as to bring about greater social impacts and more positive synergy, the Royal Government of Cambodia established the Civil Society Alliance Forum (CSAF) in 2016. CSAF is to provide a dialogue platform between the government and NGOs. NGOs can freely participate in this platform on a voluntary basis by adhering to the rule of law and democratic principles adapted to Cambodia's context, scientific evidence-based reasoning



rather than biased opinions, and mutual respect for each other's roles. Such opinions and insights from intellectuals, researchers, academicians, and broader civil society through active participation in scientific debates and research would serve as invaluable, evidence-based inputs for new public policy proposals. Our fields of interest include, but not limited to, education, public health, public services at the grassroots level and promotion of worker well-being.

All this is to ultimately engender an effective coordination and harmonization among different circles of the society in order to better respond to social issues including poverty alleviation, environmental protection and sustainable development at the local, regional and international levels.

CSAF's Perspectives on Cooperation and Exchanges

The paramount reason for our existence is to serve as a constructive forum as well as a bridge between the Royal Government and CSOs, in order to promote peace, cooperation and sustainable development in Cambodia. This is possible by ensuring a better understanding, coordination and dialogue for sustainable and harmonious operations of the civil society organizations in compliance with the Constitution and existing laws.

While Cambodia is a pluralistic, democratic country, where every citizen has the rights as well as obligations, as guaranteed by the Constitution and laws, to express opinions, we at CSAF believe that only those which are made through constructive dialogue based on sound scientific and evidence-based reasoning should prevail. This has to comply with the Constitution as well as the rule of law and democratic principles compatible with the prevailing societal values of the Cambodian nation. Or otherwise, they are merely lip services and no concrete actions can be realized, which may do harm than good to the society, and social

harmony, unity, prosperity and progress may be paralyzed.

We also welcome cooperation with foreign friends, but only if Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity as well as prevailing social norms, Constitution and laws are respected.

Cooperation with Local NGOs

CSAF has been actively conducting outreach activities to engage the NGOs across Cambodia, through dialogue forums between CSAF and NGOs, associations, trade unions and community-based organizations across the 24 provinces and the capital city. This is to forge cooperation, partnership and synergy toward accelerating socio-economic development, maintaining peace and promoting social harmony and prosperity. Only through empathetic dialogues that better mutual understanding and cooperation can be promoted among NGOs in Cambodia. Also, we have been conceiving cooperation projects with the member NGOs so as to respond to the real needs of the people.

The dialogue forums represent one of the most extensive efforts ever made to provide effective communication and work mechanism for building mutual trust and cooperation between CSAF and civil society organizations with the participation of relevant competent authorities. They have effectively addressed many of the issues facing the authorities, NGOs and the people, and more such dialogues will continue in the years to come.

International Cooperation

CSAF has been strengthening and expanding international cooperation with many foreign institutions and NGOs in the region and the world. Currently, CSAF is working closely with the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2017,



to facilitate cooperation between Cambodian NGOs and Chinese NGOs in a range of activities from exchanges of visits and experience to implementation of concrete projects.

For instance, H.E.Kemreath Viseth, Chairman of the Board of CSAF led a delegation of Cambodian civil society organizations composed of NGOs, associations and trade unions to visit the People's Republic of China from November 16-24, 2017. The program included a working trip to Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, and the participation in the 1st Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network Forum in Beijing. In Shenzhen, the delegation participated in a seminar at Shenzhen University, under the theme "Lancang-Mekong International Elite Exchange Program". The delegation also participated in discussions with the Shenzhen NGO Federation, facilitated by the Shenzhen Foundation for International Exchange and Cooperation (SFIEC).

The Shenzhen Foundation also expressed its intention to support solar energy for the households in remote areas. In Beijing, the Cambodian delegation attended the first forum of Silk Road NGO Network (SIRONET), organized by CNIE, under the theme of "NGO's Mission in Advancing the Belt and Road Initiative and Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind".

During the event, Chairman of the CSAF Board was elected member of the SIRONET International Steering Committee. Through this international mechanism, we expect to build good relationship and win-win cooperation with NGOs from countries along the Belt and Road in order to strengthen the roles of NGOs in promoting development cooperation, peace and shared prosperity.

In April 2018, a delegation from CSAF was invited to participate in the First Shanghai Cooperation Organization People's Forum under the theme "Promoting Regional Peace and Cooperation and Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind: The Role of NGOs", held in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, China.

CSAF sent 30 delegates from trade unions in Cambodia, at the invitation of the China Worker's Center for International Exchange (CWCIE), to participate in the China-Cambodia Workshop, which took place from April 22 to 29, 2018, in order to strengthen cooperation between trade unions of the two countries.

In turn, CNIE has organised trips for Chinese NGOs to visit the Kingdom of Cambodia. For instance, a delegation composed of a dozen of Chinese NGOs led by CNIE has recently visited

Cambodia, May 8 - 12, 2018, during which friendly dialogues and mutual understanding were realised.

More importantly, many documents on cooperation projects were signed during the visit, covering such key areas as health, education, community development and poverty alleviation:

--Two Cooperation Agreements between CSAF and the Chinese Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD) on the project of constructing 200 pump wells for the poor households in Bati and Borei Choulsa districts, Takeo province.

--Cooperation Framework Agreement between CSAF and Yu Panglin Charity Foundation for the implementation of Eye Care Project in Takeo Eye Care Hospital.

--Project Agreement between CSAF and Shenzhen Foundation for International Exchange and Cooperation (SFIEC) on "Mekong River Sunlight Villages" in Bati and Borei Choulsa districts, Takeo province.

In addition, CSAF has signed MOUs with many other Chinese foundations and organizations to lay a foundation for the implementation of practical projects in the future. Further, more development projects are expected to be expanded to other provinces and cities across Cambodia so as to

provide relief for the poor in remote areas and improve their livelihood.

Overall, within the current cooperation framework and under the effective coordination of the CNIE and CSAF, the cooperation between Cambodian NGOs and Chinese NGOs has been very fruitful, not only through exchanges of visits and experiences, but also through the implementation of concrete projects. CSAF extends its sincere appreciation to the government and people of the People's Republic of China, especially CNIE, for their generous support to CSAF and the Cambodian people at large. Such a generous gesture on the part of China does confirm its very philosophy and principle of peaceful co-existence and partnership-building in its relations with other countries, especially the developing countries, as her president, His Excellency Xi Jinping, ably put it, "China will uphold justice and friendship and pursue shared interests and boost pragmatic cooperation with other developing countries." All this will further promote the true roles of NGOs, especially in Cambodia and China, in effectively contributing to peace and cooperation, poverty alleviation and shared prosperity at the national, regional and international levels, and ultimately to the building of a community of shared future for mankind.



Solid Progress Made in the Belt and Road Initiative and People-to-People Connectivity, Chinese CSOs Forge Ahead with Active Engagement

In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the initiatives of jointly building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The initiatives injected fresh impetus to achieving common development and prosperity as well as strengthening practical cooperation, mutual learning in civilizations and exchanges and cooperation among CSOs between China and other countries along the Belt and Road, thus gaining widespread popularity in the international community. President Xi delivered an important speech at the Seminar on the 5th Anniversary of Advancing the Building of the Belt and Road Initiative on August 27, 2018. He emphasized that we need to achieve real and solid progress in implementing the Belt and Road Initiative, deliver more tangible benefits to the people from countries along the Belt and Road, and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. Over the past 5 years, the building of the Belt and Road has been translated from concept and vision to concrete actions and realities. The Belt and Road Initiative has received warm response from an increasing number of countries and has become a Chinese solution for China to join the global opening-up and cooperation, improve global

governance system, promote common development and prosperity and build a community with a shared future for mankind.

Friendship between the peoples holds the key to sound state-to-state relations, and heart-to-heart communication contributes to deeper friendship. People-to-people bond is a crucial part and an important foundation of the Belt and Road Initiative. President Xi stressed that “We need to give equal importance to economic cooperation and people-to-people and cultural exchanges, focus on intensive cultivation in humanities domain, respect different cultures, histories and customs of other countries, and strengthen friendly engagement with the people from countries along the Belt and Road so as to lay a wide social foundation for the building of the Belt and Road. We should make practical efforts to promote people-to-people connectivity, carry forward the spirit of the Silk Road, enhance mutual learning in civilizations and value people-to-people and cultural exchanges”. By strengthening the understanding of the people in relevant countries and regions along the Belt and Road and shaping a positive and friendly social atmosphere, people-to-people connectivity can

consolidate public support and social foundation for the smooth development of the Belt and Road. Without the guarantee and support of people-to-people ties, it's hard to achieve sound and steady development in the building of the Belt and Road.

In the past five years, China has inherited and promoted the Silk Road spirit, and has extensively carried out people-to-people exchanges and cooperation with countries along the Belt and Road. China has designed and implemented a large number of brand projects and activities, and the work of people-to-people ties has made solid progress on the basis of the existing achievement. With political parties, CSOs, think tanks, media, and enterprises as the mainstays, the building of many projects on people-to-people connectivity involving politics, economy, culture, education, science and technology, and health has been vigorously implemented and achieved fruitful outcomes. The width and depth of people-to-people exchanges between China and the countries along the Belt and Road have continued to expand, and the distance between the people of the countries along it has been getting closer.

As an important force to enhance people-to-people ties, the Chinese CSOs have done a lot of work in promoting people-to-people and cultural exchanges and improving people's livelihood in countries along the Belt and Road. For example, China Foundation for Peace and Development has built schools and clinics in Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia and other countries to benefit local people. China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation has carried out public welfare and livelihood projects for the grassroots people in neighboring and African countries, with a total investment

of nearly 40 million RMB. With the deepening of the building of the Belt and Road, more and more Chinese CSOs are actively participating in promoting people-to-people ties, strengthening the cooperation and exchanges between China and other countries and regions, so that countries along the Belt and Road are closer, more friendly and more supportive to us, and jointly contribute the wisdom and strength from the civil society to the building of the Belt and Road.

One of the eye-catching highlights is in May, 2017 when China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) initiated the establishment of the Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network (SIRONET), which has 310 member organizations from 69 countries at present (among them 173 are foreign organizations and 137 are Chinese). Since the establishment of the Network, the Chinese member organizations have actively implemented Action Plan for Closer People-to-People Bonds along the Belt and Road (2017-2020), achieved preliminary success and sound effect, and vigorously promoted people-to-people connectivity and idea-sharing in countries along the Belt and Road.

At present, the building of Belt and Road is progressing towards the direction of solid implementation and sustainable development, and the sunshine avenue of people-to-people ties are constantly widening. In this process, CSOs need to make positive endeavors to forge ahead with communications as a bond and cooperation as a support.

(Translated by Wang Xiaoyi)

Relying on Sichuan's Special Resources to Create Distinctive People-to-People Diplomacy

——A Glimpse of People-to-people Diplomacy in Sichuan Province

Li Ping

General Secretary Xi Jinping has repeatedly emphasized, quoting an ancient saying, that Friendship, which derives from close contact between the people, holds the key to sound state-to-state relations. Social organizations and various other non-governmental entities who take part in international affairs in assorted forms can play positive roles in strengthening people-to-people bonds and social basis of state relations. Sichuan Province has given full play to the advantages of its local special resources and embarked on a road of people-to-people diplomacy with Sichuan characteristics.

Taking geographical advantages of Tibetan-inhabited region to promote foreign exchanges. Sichuan boasts the second largest Tibetan-inhabited region with the highest number of Tibetan Buddhist monks across China. Its unique snow-covered plateau scenery, mysterious Tibetan

Buddhism and exotic Tibetan culture have made it highly appealing to the outside world. With these attractions, the Province has actively invited famous foreign Tibetology experts to visit its Tibetan-inhabited region, and frequently organized overseas tours for Chinese Tibetology experts, scholars and Tibetan theatrical troupes. By giving lectures and holding events like the New Look of Tibetan-inhabited Region photo exhibitions and cultural evenings, the Province has managed to give the rest of the world a comprehensive and objective view of new development in Tibetan region as well as China's ethnic and religious policies.

Giving play to the local footprint of Sichuan's enterprises operating abroad to launch heart-warming projects. The New Hope Group has opened more than 40 factories in 16 countries, and while broadening the market it pays high attention

to heart-warming projects. For example, it sets up prayer rooms in factories in Muslim countries, and in Southeast Asian countries it prepares summer-heat relieving medicine and icy water for employees, offers coffee break and hammocks to fit their living habits, and gained respect from the locals by following the policy of recruiting local talents, which has created plenty of jobs in the place. Dongfang Electric Corporation has bolstered its credential as an excellent Chinese company in Vietnam after effectively relieving local unemployment by hiring over 3,000 locals in its hydropower project, and creating a good working environment as it takes proactive measures to satisfy the legitimate interests of local people. Huaqiao Fenghuang (HQFH) Group has been operating in South Africa for 17 years as to become the second largest company in the country's property industry. It has not only won high praise from former President Jacob Zuma and developed good friendship with personages from all walks of life in the country, but also encouraged a number of Chinese companies dealing with building materials and hardware business to strike roots in South Africa as well as other countries, which has effectively boosted our domestic firms. HQFH was also the first Chinese private enterprise to have undertaken construction of national demonstration projects overseas, among which the Uganda Agricultural Demonstration Center it runs has received wide acclaim and was referred to as "the Oriental Jerusalem" by the Ugandan president.

To build a unique platform for people-to-people

diplomacy with its richly-endowed panda resources. The Giant Panda Habitat in Sichuan Province is the largest and complete habitat for giant pandas in the world, with more than 30% of the world's wild giant pandas. Giant pandas enjoy wild public affection across the globe, and some of those in Sichuan have been sent, as messengers of friendship, to more than 20 countries including the United States, France, Britain, Japan, Australia and Singapore. Through carrying out study of giant pandas, the Chengdu Research Base of Giant panda Breeding and the China Conservation and Research Center for Giant Panda in Wolong have developed into platforms for international scientific and technological cooperation and exchanges, attracting zoologists and students from various countries to participate in research and take internships in Sichuan; The campaign of symbolic adoption of giant pandas has attracted a batch of foreign public figures from political, business and show business circle to come and visit; by building the platform of "Giant Panda Hometown Tour", Sichuan has also welcomed loads of giant panda fans from Europe and America either as tourists or as volunteers to assist in giant panda conservation, which has effectively geared up non-governmental exchanges.

To make Sichuan cuisine as the carrier of its culture. According to surveys, giant panda and Sichuan cuisine are the two most impressive elements in foreigners' perception of Sichuan. As a most important label of Sichuan culture, Sichuan cuisine has spread its fame as well as its aroma to all over the world. In recent years, the

Province has supported a large number of well-known Sichuan catering enterprises to expand overseas, organized Sichuan food promotion events in diverse forms, built a number of “Overseas Sichuan Cuisine Promotion Centers”, and constantly organized Sichuan’s social organizations like Sichuan Tourism University to go abroad and hold Sichuan Gourmet Weeks. The province carries out international exchanges in such a way to gain great popularity among foreigners, supplemented by other elements such as Sichuan Opera, Sichuan Tea and Sichuan Wine.

To Share experience in disaster prevention and mitigation. Sichuan Province has gathered rich experience in earthquake relief and post-disaster reconstruction in dealing with the Great Sichuan Earthquake which occurred on May 12th, 2008 in Wenchuan. The province has since received several delegations of private think tanks and relevant social organizations from Nepal, New Zealand and other countries, and shared with them the experience in post-disaster reconstruction and the achievement of the province in economic and social development while tackling the aftermath of the earthquake. The visitors have been, as they put it, impressed by the Province’s capability of organizing and mobilizing efforts in earthquake relief and post-quake reconstruction, and the efficiency in implementing the reconstruction

planning, thus deepening the understanding and recognition of China's choice to follow the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

In order to integrate resources of people-to-people diplomacy so as to realize advantage complementation and collaboration among social organizations and non-governmental groups, the Sichuan NGO Network for International Exchanges was established in 2018, enrolling 47 social organizations, 2 foundations, and 18 export-oriented enterprises as members, all of which are influential in certain fields such as economy, culture, education, poverty alleviation and charitable sector. Serving as a go-between, the Network guides its member entities to exchange and cooperate with international NGOs on the platform it creates. Focusing on “Belt and Road” construction while attaching equal importance to “bringing in” and “going global”, the Network is committed, under the principle of “achieving shared benefits through wide consultation and joint contribution”, to unfolding the wonderful story of Sichuan and China before the world through non-governmental contacts, scientific and technological cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges.

(Li Ping, the author, works in the Sichuan NGO Network for International Exchanges)

Resolving Doubts, Enhancing Mutual Trust and Promoting Cultural Exchanges among Civilizations:

The visit of the Delegation of China Society for Human Rights Studies to the UK and Greece

Qi Mingjie

The delegation of China Society for Human Rights Studies visited the UK and Greece from the 30th of June to the 7th of July. During their stay in the UK, the delegation visited the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Parliament, research institutes and think tanks, having in-depth discussions on human rights issues with people from various circles. In Greece, the delegation visited the institutes of the European Public Law Organization (EPLO), Institute of International Economic Relations (IIER), new media and think tank “Macropolis” and the Greek

National Commission on Human Rights, reaching broad consensus on human rights exchanges between China and Greece.

This visit is an important move for the China Society for Human Rights to actively go out and carry out international exchanges and communications broadly. The delegation met with new friends and old ones; introduced our condition with broad horizon; analyzed issues from an academic perspective; gave responses to concerns with facts, data, and true stories.

These actions effectively clarified misunderstandings, promoted trust, widely introduced China’s human rights achievements and views, displaying the good spirit of Chinese social organizations in the new era.

Comprehensively introducing China’s human rights development achievements and views



The delegation comprehensively presented the great achievement China has got in human rights development since 1987. The delegation pointed out that China has always insisted the human rights development thoughts putting people at the core, insisted on listing the right to live and the right to develop as primary human rights; integrated the universality principle of human rights with China's reality; strengthened law-based guarantee of human rights to promote the coordinated development of economic, social, cultural rights with citizen and political rights. As a result, China has found his own way of human rights development which suits its national situation.

First, Safeguarding human rights by the rule of law. The phrase of "respect and guarantee human rights" has been written in the Chinese Constitution as one of the basic principles. China insist on combining human rights protection with the comprehensive pushing forward of the rule of law. We have given high priority to the respect and protection of human rights in the construction of a socialist legal system, implementing the principle in all processes from scientific legislation, strict law enforcement, judicial justice, to cultivating law-abiding citizens. The legal fabric to guarantee human rights protection is upgraded.

Second, pushing forward the advancement of economic, social, and cultural rights. China has always prioritized the right to live and the right to develop, and focused on the guarantee and improvement of people's livelihood. China has greatly advanced causes of economy, society, and culture, building the health care service system for both cities and rural areas. Moreover, through the realization of "the fastest large-scale poverty alleviation in human record", Chinese people's right to work is fully guaranteed, and they are

enjoying the improving standard of the right to health. As China has built the largest social safety net, the levels of various rights have all been improved greatly.

Third, advancing the development of civil rights and political rights in a coordinated method. China noted that people's right of livelihood and that of democracy are inseparable and interdependent. China have focused on the balanced and coordinated development of people's civil rights and political rights with their economic, social, and cultural rights. The authority protects people's right to know, to participate and to express; respects and protects their freedom of religious belief.

In Athens, Professor Fu Zitang, Vice President of the China Society for Human Rights Studies and head of delegation, pointed out that the guarantee of the right to vote is the biggest indicator for democratic level. China realized equality of voting between urban and rural areas in 2011. Among the 2980 deputies to the National People's Congress newly elected in March 2018, a large proportion of the deputies are from common people, including workers and peasants.

Fourth, designing and issuing many documents on human rights policy. During the panel discussion with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the UK, the delegation introduced that China had issued more than 100 white papers since 1991, many of which are on human rights with some focusing on the human rights conditions in areas of Xinjiang and Tibet. Since 2009, China has consecutively drafted and implemented three editions of National Human Rights Action Plan, being one of the few countries to make such effort.



Five, actively participating in international human rights affairs. China has always regarded the common advancement of human rights of the whole world as its responsibility, thus China not only focused on the development of domestic human rights improvement, but also actively took part in international human rights affairs. The concept of “building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind” has been widely approved and accepted by organizations of UN and the international community at large. Set up in China, “Beijing Human Rights Forum”, “South-South Human Rights Forum”, and “China-Europe Seminar on Human Rights” have become important platforms for building understanding between China and the world.

Explaining specific practices of China in the fight against discrimination.

During the round table seminar organized by the Great Britain China Centre, the delegation introduced China’s specific practices and major achievements in the fight against discrimination for human rights protection from six aspects, in accordance with the themes set by the seminar.

First, anti-discrimination in employment. China has passed the Labor Law and the Employment Promotion Law, making detailed description on human rights protection in the

field of employment, concerning issues of equal employment opportunity, getting payment, rest and vacation, receiving vocational skills training, enjoying social insurance and welfare, and appealing for labor dispute solution.

Second, anti-discrimination concerning different nationality. As a united country with multiple ethnic groups, China treats every ethnic group equally. Under the guidance of the nationality equality principle by the Constitution, China drew up the Law on Regional Ethnic Autonomy, and further announced and implemented the Several Regulations to optimize the former law. Ethnic autonomous regions can set up their own regulations in accordance with the law, and manage its economic, social, and cultural issues independently.

Third, anti-discrimination in education. The Constitution of China stated that Chinese citizens have equal access to education. China further drafted and enacted The Education Law and The Higher Education Law based on the principle of equality set by the constitution, ruling that all Chinese citizens enjoy equal access to education regardless of nationality, occupation, financial status, and religious belief. Currently, the gross enrollment rate of senior high-school in China has reached 87.5%, and the gross enrollment rate of higher education has reached 42.7%.

Fourth, guaranteeing the freedom of religious belief. The Constitution of China protects Chinese people's freedom of religious belief. The country protects normal religious belief. Discrimination against religious and unreligious citizens is not allowed. In 2017, China revised the Regulation on Religious Affairs, clearly stressing that the Chinese citizens can not be coerced to believe in a religion or out of one. Currently, the religious population in China is around 200 million.

Fifth, gender equality and women development issues. China follows the constitutional principle of gender equality, has ensured various rights and interests of women. In 2016, women took up 43.1% of the total employed population. The growth of educated women and the dropping speed of illiteracy rate in women are both faster than that of men. Moreover, the number of women participating in political decision making and political governance is on the rise.

Sixth, guaranteeing the rights of the disabled.

China has approved the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Disabled Persons, ensuring legal and regulatory protection of rights on employment, education, recovery, social security, and cultural rights and benefits, which has achieved remarkable effects.

According to Professor Zhou Wei, Director of Center for Human Right Law of Sichuan University, since 2012, the Chinese courts have ruled more than 150 anti-discrimination cases, concerning discrimination against HBV carriers, HIV sufferers, gender, sexual-orientation, and gene defect. Relevant authorities are drafting the law against discrimination in employment. The National Foundation for Philosophy and Social Science has funded dozens of research projects on

anti-discrimination.

Dissolving doubts concerns by answering questions from relevant personnel of the two countries.

During their stay in the UK, experts in the delegation provided detailed answers for questions concerning the freedom of speech, civil rights, and political rights in China, based on their own study results.

First, on the freedom of speech. Different culture has different interpretations of the freedom of speech. China has over 700 million internet users, and 1040 million "WeChat" users, who use their smart phones to browse videos, watch live streaming, and leave comments. In the mean time, China also has problem on internet speech, for instance, some live streaming has vulgar content which is harmful for children and teens. Even worse, there are also comments of hatred and discrimination on the internet. Without governmental regulation and management, this will be of great harm to the society. The realization of human rights is specific and historical, there is no freedom without restrictions, and the realization of various human rights would also be restricted by the objective conditions.

Second, on civil rights and political rights. On the protection of civil rights and political rights, China has made allocation and institutional arrangement in the three editions of the National Human Rights Action Plan, including them all in the constitutional framework. China and the UK have different historical backgrounds and different political and cultural realities. As a result, we have different understandings of human rights. Based on our national conditions, China stresses collective human rights, emphasizing

the realization of civil rights and political rights along with economic, social, and cultural rights. China realizes human rights in a law-abiding, coordinated, and pragmatic method.

Third, on Human rights value of China and the UK and ideas on international human rights governance.

The delegation pointed out that China believes that civilizations should be colorful, equal, and inclusive. We advocate relativism and mutual-learning among different civilizations, insisting on the principle of seeking common grounds while reserving differences on the understanding of human rights. In the area of international human rights, China advocates dialogue over opposition and cooperation over sanction. China always tried to find the right balance between national interest and international interest. We stick to cooperation and win-win, combining benefit with doing the righteous thing. China seeks to advance the cause of human progress while realizing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Human rights exchanges brought the two minds of China and Greece closer.

For years, China and Greece has maintained good bilateral relationship. Greece not only actively participated in the Belt and Road Initiative, but also showed understanding, respect, and acknowledgement for China's human rights development. During the visit, all circles of Greece expressed their willingness to cooperate with China on people-to-people exchanges and running schools, showing sincere respect and admiration for the ancient civilization behind China.

President of the European Public Law Organization (EPLO) Prof.Spyridon Flogaitis told the delegation that China represents another ancient civilization, and they are honored to exchange with the Chinese delegation. Between China and Europe, there are both dialogue and competition, while strengthening exchanges and cooperation in law, human rights, and culture would undoubtedly be the best entry point. Mr.Tsardanidis, director of the Greek Institute for International Economics commented that both China and Greece have time-honored civilization, which has build a solid foundation for the two countries to exchange in the human rights field.

Mr.Tsardanidis, editor in chief of the independent Greek media Macropolis website commented after hearing the introduction of Chinese human rights condition by the delegation that the Greek media's report on China mainly focused on economy and investment, mentioning little about human rights topics. In recent years, Greece experienced serious debt crisis, affecting people's employment, income and healthcare. Social economic development and political ecology faced with great impact, the right to live and the right to develop became widely discussed topics. The introduction of China's condition of the right to live and the right to develop by the delegation has inspired him much. He valued this introduction highly.

(The author works with the Graduate School, Party School of CPC Central Committee)

“Lancang-Mekong Brightness Action for Cambodia & Inauguration Ceremony of Brightness Action Phase II” Successfully Staged in Phnom Penh



On May 8, 2018, “Lancang-Mekong Brightness Action for Cambodia & Inauguration Ceremony of Brightness Action Phase II” was successfully staged in Toun Fa School of Phnom Penh. Sponsored by China Public Diplomacy Association and supported by Overseas Chinese Charity Foundation of China, Aier Eye Hospital and Eye Care Foundation, from May 6 to 13, “Lancang-Mekong Brightness Action” organized two medical teams to leave for Phnom Penh and Sihanouk of Cambodia as well as Vientiane and Naji Shawan of Laos, offering eye health examination, eye health education course and optician service for public interest.

Liu Biwei, Vice President of China Public Diplomacy Association introduced “Lancang-Mekong Brightness Action” program since its initiation by the Association in 2016. He pointed out that through abundant communication between China and Cambodia, the second phase of “Brightness Action” choose to conduct eye health examination in four schools, namely Toun

Fa School of Phnom Penh, Kmounh Middle School, Prey Sihanouk Primary and Middle School and Gangwa School in Sihanouk. It was predicted to offer eye examination for 3,400 people and about 20% of them will receive glasses. These glasses will be manufactured in China, posted to four schools, and delivered to needed students by school authority.

Wensemalla, Deputy Secretary-of-State of Ministry of Health of Cambodia said that eye health was of great significance to everybody and the Ministry of Health of Cambodia has been putting eye health in important place when making strategic health programs at different stages. It is the concrete embodiment of Lancang-Mekong culture featuring “equality, sincerity, mutual-assistance and cohesion” for Chinese medical team to make eye examination for Cambodia young students. This event not only offered health assistance to Cambodian people, but also entrenched the profound friendship between people of both countries. Cambodia appreciates the efforts

made by China and takes it as a present for the 60th anniversary of Sino-Cambodian diplomatic relations. Wensemall expressed her gratitude for all parties taking part in the program.

In recent years, cooperation between China and Cambodia in terms of medical care, education, health and agriculture not only promoted the economic development of Cambodia, but also improved people's livelihood in Cambodia. This time, China dispatched expert group again to Cambodia to carry out eye examination. It not only demonstrated the unbreakable profound friendship between two countries, but also proved the further strengthening of medical cooperation between both sides. This "Brightness Action" will enable more Cambodian people to experience the exquisite medical skill of Chinese doctors, thus feeling the friendship from Chinese people.

Supported by Overseas Chinese Charity Foundation of China and organized by China

Public Diplomacy Association, since 2016, the "Mekong Brightness Action" has been offering free cataract surgery for people of Cambodia, Laos and Burma. The "Lancang-Mekong Brightness Action" is one of the practical actions of Overseas Chinese Charity Foundation of China in implementing the deployments of the 19th CPC National Congress and contributing to the construction of a community with shared future for mankind. It was also concrete practices of non-governmental organizations in participating in the Lancang-Mekong River cooperation mechanism and vivid practice of promoting people-to-people diplomacy and enhancing connection between the people, which not only presented the friendship between people of China and Cambodia, but also demonstrated the great wishes of overseas Chinese in supporting, participating in Lancang-Mekong River cooperation and promoting win-win development.

(Translated by Ma Jiatai)



Ramunion Arrived at the Disaster-Stricken Area of Laos at the First Time

On July 23, a dam-break occurred to the Auxiliary Dam of XePian-XeNamnoy Hydropower Station located in Southern Laos, and 5 billion cubic meters of water flowed out in a few hours, which has caused the most serious flood of the past ten years in Laos and incurred the loss of many lives.

After the disaster, many Chinese rescue teams rushed to the disaster-stricken areas to help with relief work and have played a positive role in disaster relief.

The Ramunion rescue team, a professional rescue force belonging to Ramunion, an NGO from Zhejiang, was among the first group of rescue teams arrived at the disaster-stricken area. The first patch of the Ramunion rescue team was composed of six people and departed on the morning of July 25. They arrived in Kunming of Yunnan Province for a flight transfer at noon and arrived in Vientiane on the same day, capital of Laos at 5 p.m. At 7 a.m. of July 26, the second patch of Ramunion rescue team left for Laos. The team was composed of senior search and rescue experts, general practitioners, and

UN experts on humanitarian and environmental pollution control, and all of them were equipped with professional rescue equipments. Meanwhile, in cooperation with Doctors without Borders of Hong Kong, the Ramunion Foundation launched the program of delivering humanitarian relief materials for disaster victims.

Mr. Wang Bin, the Captain of Ramunion rescue team said that the team members immediately carried out rescue work on skiffs upon arriving and they found many survivors quickly—most of them had stayed in hunger for two or three days. Some survivors were still terrified when recalling the scene of flood.





“At 1 pm yesterday afternoon, we saved a kid who had stayed in hunger for three days and was nearly in the state of prostration. When he saw us, his eyes were full of tears. At that moment, we felt that the trip and all our efforts are worthwhile.” Mr. Xu Lijun, the Captain of Ramunion rescue team said. When they found the kid, the team members handed food and water to him at the first time.

In recent years, the Ramunion rescue team has travelled abroad for many times and participated in transnational earthquake rescue missions in Nepal, Pakistan, Ecuador, Italy and Indonesia. In July 2018, the Ramunion rescue team took part in the marine casualty rescue work in Phuket of Thailand.

(Translated by Ma Jiatai)

Latest News of International Exchanges (July-September, 2018)

On July 2, “She Powered the Belt and Road” China-Tunis Public Welfare Cultural Exchange and Embroidery Training Course was held in Tunis. The event was hosted by the China Women's Development Foundation and was the first public welfare project under the framework of the Foundation's “China-Africa Women's Development Fund”. With the theme of “Female Charity Assisting the Belt and Road Construction”, this project strives to build a Belt and Road international women's public welfare platform of exchanges and cooperation, establish an interactive mechanism, and promote the cooperation between women and children of China and Africa. Nearly 300 representatives from China and Tunisia attended the event.

On July 2, the second China-Kazakhstan Business Leaders Cooperation Forum was held in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan. The forum was co-sponsored by the China International Council for the Promotion of Multinational Corporations and the Global Silk Road International Forum Secretariat. The China-Kazakhstan Business Leaders Cooperation Forum is held regularly in China and Kazakhstan twice a year, in June and July in Kazakhstan and in November and December in China. Participants are mainly entrepreneurs from both countries.

On July 4, the newly established International Science Council held its first plenary session in Paris, France. Li Jinyan, Vice-Chairman of the China Association for Science and Technology, Party Secretary and Director of the National Natural Science Foundation of China, was elected

as Vice-Chairman of International Science Council for a term of 2018-2021. International Council Science was formed by the merger of former International Federation of Science and Technology and former International Social Science Association. It currently has 143 organizational members, 39 federation members and 31 associate members.

From July 8 to 14, Hao Zhiqiang, Vice-President of National Council of YMCA of China, led a delegation to Thailand to attend the 19th World Congress of the YMCA. With the theme of “Youth Energize”, the World Congress emphasized that YMCA should give young people a chance to speak and encourage young people to participate in promoting world development. During the conference, Wu Jianrong, director general of National Council of YMCA of China met with the head of YMCA of World and held dialogues with representatives of United States, India, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, the Taiwan Region, and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Wu introduced the achievements of China's reform and opening up and the development of YMCA of China.

On July 10, as one of the side events of the 2018 United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the seminar “China's Role in the Global Partnership to Achieve the SDGs” hosted by China NGO Network for International Exchanges and Mercy Corps was held in New York. About 60 representatives from the United Nations Secretariat, the permanent missions to the United Nations,

relevant think tanks, and civil organizations attended the meeting. Representatives from China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, China Ecological Civilization Research and Promotion Association, All-China Environment Federation, Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization and other domestic social organizations introduced their work and achievements in the field of sustainable development.

On July 14, supported by Beijing Returned Overseas Chinese Federation, the first BRI Beijing Teachers and African Diplomats Friendly Football Match was held in Beijing. Teachers from 23 primary and secondary schools in Beijing and diplomats from 13 African countries including Gabon, Cameroon, Rwanda, Angola and Togo participated in the competition. The African Diplomat Football Team was founded in the 1980s, and the current president is Batna Kazidi, a news commissioner from the Embassy of Chad in China.

From July 15 to 19, at the invitation of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, President of Laos-China Friendship Association and the Minister of Energy and Minerals of Laos, Kenmani Intira, led a delegation to visit China. Gu Xiulian, President of China-ASEAN Association (CAA), met with the delegation. Wu Tao, President of China-Laos Friendship Association and Kenmani Intira, President of Laos-China Friendship Association, signed a memorandum of cooperation for the next five years. The delegation visited NORINCO International Company, China Gezhouba Group International Engineering Co., Ltd., China Southern Power Grid Huizhou Pumped Storage Power Station, Guangzhou Automobile Group Co., Ltd. and PCI Technology Co., Ltd., and further strengthened cooperation in the fields of energy and technology under the framework of Belt and Road Initiative.

From July 16 to 18, co-sponsored by China NGO Network for International Exchanges, Beijing Huanyou Science and Technology Research

Center, Asia Environmental Information Center, Korea Environmental Movement Association (Gwangju), hosted by Shaanxi Yangling Environmental Protection Association, the 6th East Asia Climate Forum and 2018 China Climate Action Network was held in Xi'an. Sixty representatives from civil society organizations, think tanks and business companies of China, Japan and South Korea participated in the forum and discussed topics such as climate change, the development and use of renewable energy, and further improvement of environmental protection policies.

On July 20, the inaugural meeting of the "China-Africa Medical Enterprise Innovation Promotion Professional Committee" under the China-Africa Business Council was held in Beijing. This is the first special committee established since the establishment of China-Africa Business Council. It has built a broad platform for guide outstanding medical enterprises to "go global", participate in BRI construction and serve African countries. The special committee was initiated by Han Qide, Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences. From March 23 to July 20 of 2018, 30 members from the fields of biotechnology, medical technology, and legal affairs have joined the committee. In the future, the committee will focus more on China-Africa medical cooperation.

On July 29, the launching ceremony of Smiling Children Project of the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation in the 2018-2019 school year was held in Khartoum, Sudan. Chinese Ambassador to Sudan Li Lianhe, Mayor of Jebel Alawlia, and Mrs. Fatima Alamin, Secretary General of Sultan Biltwau Charities, attended the ceremony and delivered speeches. More than 500 people including local politicians, education officials, students, teachers and parents attended the ceremony. In the new school year, with the support of Alibaba's Charity Baby Network, there will be free meals for 4,973 primary school students in 8 primary schools in three states of Sudan.

On July 30, the donation ceremony for the charity

project of Chinese social organizations was held at the Mahendra Adasha Witishham (MAV) School in Nepal. A joint delegation of 22 Chinese social organizations led by Secretary General Zhu Rui of China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) attended the donation ceremony. China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA) is constructing a two-storey building within the school compound after MAV School's buildings were severely damaged by the strong earthquake of 2015. As part of the endeavor to support Nepal's education, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation distributed 300 school bags to the students of MAV School sponsored by Alibaba. China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation has raised a total of 13.32 million yuan of funds in the earthquake relief in Nepal, with an accumulated investment of 12.02 million RMB, benefiting 246,500 locals.

From August 2 to 3, Asia-Pacific Forum for Youth Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship was held in Beijing. The forum was sponsored by the National Youth Federation and the United Nations Development Programme, and was organized by the China Youth Daily and the China International Youth Exchange Center. The forum held nearly 20 seminars, and 300 young representatives from more than 30 countries participated in the forum to discuss issues such as youth influence, the impact of new technologies on youth, and the achievement of sustainable development goals. Xu Haoliang, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Director of the Asia-Pacific Bureau of the United Nations Development Programme, and Dong Xia, Deputy Secretary-General of the National Youth Federation, delivered a speech at the opening ceremony.

In order to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-China strategic partnership, the 2nd ASEAN-China People-to-People Friendship Organizations Leader's Meeting, and the 6th ASEAN- China Youth Cultural Exchange Festival co-sponsored by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the People's Government of Sichuan Province

and organized by Sichuan People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SPAFFC), were held in Chengdu on August 6. Gu Xiulian, President of China-ASEAN Association (CAA), KORN DABBARANSI, the former deputy Prime Minister and the President of Thailand-China Friendship Association (TCFA), and leaders from friendship organizations in China and ASEAN countries, as well as youth representatives, attended the opening ceremony.

On August 9, more than 60 people from the French-speaking African delegation exchanged views at the Xiamen Strait Culture and Tourism Information Exchange Center. Members of the delegation came from Algeria, Benin, Burundi, Djibouti, Guinea, Cameroon, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Niger and Senegal. During the visit to Xiamen, they visited the product showroom of relevant companies and learned about the "Global Smart Travel" project, tourism bus supervision platform, tour guide reservation, smart store trading system, electronic contract, smart ticketing system, AR stereo map, VR magazine and other technology research and development products.

On August 11, the 7th International Youth Culture and Art Exchange Week, which was co-sponsored by the Beijing Foreign Affairs Office and Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, opened at Renmin University of China. Adolescent art teams from Australia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Zambia and other countries and Hong Kong participated in the event with more than 5,000 people from all over China.

On August 12, the first "Silk Road and Youth Dreams" international youth exchange event was opened in Beijing. The event was co-sponsored by China's Silk Road Cities Alliance, Beijing Belt and Road Cooperative Community and Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China, aiming to promote exchanges and cooperation among young people among the Belt and Road countries. Nearly 100 young players from 25 countries along the Belt

and Road Initiative participated in the event, sharing their dreams and understanding of the Belt and Road Initiative by participating in speeches, music and photography competitions and visits.

On August 13, the "2018 Belt and Road National Ministerial Officials and Chinese Enterprises Exchange Meeting" co-sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and the China-Africa Business Council was held in Beijing. The conference aims to build a platform, expand contact channels, and promote exchanges and communication between Chinese enterprises and high-level officials along the Belt and Road countries. 73 representatives from 33 member units of China-Africa Business Council and 43 representatives from 10 countries including Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Djibouti, South Sudan, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal and Mexico attended the meeting. Among the participants, there are 12 officials above the deputy ministerial level.

From August 13 to 17, at the invitation of the DPRK Foreign Cultural Liaison Committee and the DPRK-China Friendship Association, Xie Yuan, Vice-President of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries led the Youth and Women's Choir of the China Symphony Orchestra to hold "Friendship and Peace" activity in Pyongyang, North Korea. Li Jinjun, Chinese Ambassador to DPRK, Park King-il, vice chairman of Korean Foreign Cultural Liaison Committee, and Hong Syunming, Deputy Director General of North Korean People's Service Bureau, attended the event and watched the performance with North Korean primary school students. The Chinese delegation also had a networking exchange with students from Pyongyang Children's Palace and Kim Song-ju Primary School.

On August 14, the 18th Sino-Vietnamese Youth Friendship Meeting was held in Hanoi, Vietnam. Fu Zhenbang, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League, attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech. Li Quoc Phong, First Secretary of the Central

Committee of the Communist Youth League of Ho Chi Minh, and more than 100 young people from China and Vietnam attended the event. In order to implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two parties and the spirit of the Sino-Vietnamese joint statement, the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China cooperated with the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth League to hold the Sino-Vietnamese Youth Friendship Meeting annually since 2000. It has been successfully held for 17 sessions.

On August 16, 2018 International Forum on Science Education, co-sponsored by Children & Youth Science Center of CAST and China Association of Children's Science Instructors, opened in Chongqing. More than 800 experts and scholars, outstanding primary and secondary school principals and science and technology teachers from 47 countries and regions including China, the United States, Italy, Luxembourg, Thailand and Tunisia participated in the forum and exchanged views on how to train talents for the future under the background of the world science and technology revolution and industrial transformation in the theme of "science-oriented education for the future". The forum lasts for 3 days and hosts exchange activities such as main forums, sub-forums, and teacher workshops.

On August 16, 2018 "Soong Ching Ling Cup" China-ASEAN Youth Football Friendly Match was successfully closed. The Standing Committee Vice-Chairman of China Soong Ching Ling Foundation Hang Yuanxiang, the Chinese Football Association Vice-Chairman Li Yuyi, the China-ASEAN Center Secretary General Chen Dehai, and the Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Linn Ohn and diplomatic envoys from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and other countries attended the closing ceremony. Eight teams from Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, the Philippines, Myanmar and China competed fiercely in 4 days. The Laos, Thailand and China teams were awarded the top three.

On August 17, the 2018 High-level Meeting on

China-Africa Health Cooperation was held in Beijing. This meeting is one of the supporting activities of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. The document of China-Africa Health Cooperation 2018 Beijing Initiative has further strengthened the consensus on China-Africa health cooperation. A total of about 300 representatives from 36 African countries, international organizations, relevant Chinese departments and social organizations attended the conference. It is reported that China has sent medical teams to African countries for 55 years. A total of 21,000 non-medical medical personnel were sent to 48 African countries. 220 million patients were treated and 80,000 health personnel were trained.

On August 20, the "Life Angel" African Midwife Assistant Training, co-sponsored by China NGO Network for International Exchanges and Wenzhou Medical University, and supported by the Ghana Embassy in China and the Tanzania China Friendship Association, was officially launched. The students group was composed of non-medical background students from Africa and other African countries and students with medical backgrounds. They attended a two-week training session at Wenzhou Medical University in Zhejiang Province. The project raised a total of 50,000 mosquito nets and will donate to the First Lady Foundation of Ghana and the Tanzania China Friendship Association.

On August 25, 54 international students from 14 developing countries including Russia, Egypt, North Korea, Cuba, and Argentina graduated from the training base of the Shaolin Temple in Songshan Mountain after 45 days of study. The training base was founded Shi Yanlu, member of CNIE, member of Henan Provincial Committee of CPPCC, Vice Chairman of Henan Wushu Association. This study offers martial arts training and traditional Chinese culture courses. Students can appreciate the rich content of Chinese culture while practicing martial arts.

On August 27, the "Mekong River Sun Village" program which is in the first phase of the

"Shenzhen x Lancang-Mekong" initial projects landed in Cambodia. Under the witness of the residents of Bati County and Borrethusa County of Takeo Province, Cambodia, Cao Cong, the Permanent Secretary of the Shenzhen International Exchange and Cooperation Foundation, handed over the power generation equipment to the Chairman of CSAF. The "Sun Village" project provides off-grid photovoltaic solutions for local residents, including 300 power generation equipment, 100 solar learning lights and 10 solar TVs and antennas.

From August 28 to 29, 2018 High-level Conference on Intellectual Property for Countries Along the "Belt and Road" jointly organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization and the National Intellectual Property Administration, the National Copyright Administration, the Ministry of Commerce, and the Beijing Municipal People's Government was held in Beijing. President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the conference. This is the second meeting on the basis of 2018 High-level Conference on Intellectual Property for Countries Along the "Belt and Road", which aims to further promote the IPR cooperation among countries along the "Belt and Road". About 300 people from more than 50 national intellectual property institutions, international and regional intellectual property organizations, representatives of embassies in China, and enterprises and academics attended the conference.

On August 29, in order to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the conclusion of the Sino-Japanese Treaty of Peace and Friendship, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries held the "Chinese-Japanese Youth Friendly Exchange Night" in Beijing. Song Jingwu, Vice-president of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Sou Yuki, President of the Japanese Shorinji Kempo Unity, and Ryujiro Abe, a permanent member of the Japan-China Cultural Exchange Association, and Shinichi Koichi, Vice-President of Soka University, attended the event. About 500 people from the Shaolin

Temple Youth Student Delegation, the Japan-China Cultural Exchange Association University Student Delegation, the Soka University Student Delegation, the Central Japan University Student Delegation, and some capital university student representatives attended the event.

From September 3 to 5, co-sponsored by China NGO Network for International Exchanges and China Climate Action Network, supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the Stiftung Mercator, organized by Sichuan Green Foundation, 2018 China-European Civil Society Interchange Project Workshop was held in Chengdu City, Sichuan Province. The theme of the conference was capacity building. A total of 39 experts, scholars, social organization workers and managers attended the conference, including 22 exchange partners from 10 civil society organizations in Europe and 11 social organizations in China.

On September 7, the 2018 World Tourism Cities Federation Qingdao-Xiangshan Tourism Summit was grandly opened in Qingdao City, Shandong Province. The summit was co-sponsored by the World Federation of Tourism Cities and the Qingdao Municipal People's Government. The theme was to "Catch the development trend and enhance the city brand". There were eight activities of the conference including opening ceremony and keynote speeches, council meetings, summit forums, tourism promotion conferences, tourism transactions, tourism investment and financing conference, exhibition display, and club activities. About 400 representatives from 59 countries, 112 tourist cities, more than 200 tourism-related companies and international organizations including the United Nations attended the summit.

On September 8, the "Twenty-four Solar Health Food Culture International Forum" hosted by the China Cuisine Association was held in Pingdu City, Shandong Province. The theme of the event is "Cure Time Health and Food in Pingdu", which aims to promote the further development of Pingdu as the origin of the 24th solar terms. More than 1,000 health food experts, domestic

festival folk experts and delegates of catering enterprises from more than 10 countries along the "Belt and Road" attended the event. Shahril Zaman, Secretary-General of the Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association, attended the forum and delivered a speech.

On September 10, "Brandenburg State Green Industry Cooperation Project" seminar hosted by the China Federation of Industrial Economics and the German Brandenburg Economic Development Agency was held in Beijing. More than 120 experts, scholars and entrepreneurs from China and Germany gathered to discuss the opportunities for Sino-German cooperation in green industry. The seminar was pragmatic and efficient, and the entrepreneurs from China and Germany introduced the cooperation project on site and conducted full and efficient communication and negotiation with potential partners. The results of the event were remarkable.

From September 12 to 13, the "Belt and Road" CSO Partnership for Ecological Management Forum was held in Wuwei City, Gansu Province. The forum was led by the China Green Foundation and jointly organized by China NGO Network for International Exchanges. The theme of the forum is "Sharing China's Ecological Governance Experience, Promoting International Cooperation and Promoting Ecological Co-construction and Sharing". More than 10 international organizations including the Planning Department of United Nations, the Asia-Pacific Forest Network, the World Wide Fund for Nature, and delegates of the scientific and technological circles, industry authorities, social organizations, and sand control enterprises of more than 20 countries along the "Belt and Road" in attended the forum.

On September 12, the United Nations Headquarters in New York hosted a commemorative event for the South-South Cooperation Day and released the second volume of "South-South Trilateral Cooperation for Sustainable Development Best Practices". The third UN Volunteer Service Cooperation Project

(via South-South Cooperation and the “Belt and Road” initiative to promote China's participation in international volunteer service development projects), which was co-operated by the Beijing Volunteer Service Federation and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), was successfully selected. The continuous deepening and progress of China's participation in international volunteer services has also provided valuable experience for developing countries to carry out trilateral South-South cooperation.

On September 13, the third Asian-African Youth Festival hosted by the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League and the National Youth Federation was opened in Beijing. A total of 300 young people from nearly 50 countries in Asia and Africa, international students in China, and Chinese youth participated in special forums, lectures, cultural experiences, development training, and exchanges activities. During the festival, the Asia-Africa Youth Development Forum, the Asian Youth Leaders Forum, the Asian-African Youth Partner Camp, and the partner organization counterparts were also held. Young representatives visited Chinese companies, communities, universities, and discussed with young people from various industries in China.

From September 17 to 19, the World Conference on Science Literacy was held in Beijing. Chinese President Xi Jinping and UN Secretary-General António Guterres sent a congratulatory letter to the conference. The theme of the conference is “Scientific Quality and a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind”. The conference is sponsored by the China Association for Science and Technology, and supported by UNESCO, the International Council of Science, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations. 1,000 representatives from 23 international scientific and technological organizations and 58 national scientific and technological organizations and institutions from 38 countries attended the conference. The 15th National Science Day event was held during the conference.

From September 18 to 20, the Commemorative Event for the International Day of Peace 2018 hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament and the Jiangsu Provincial People's Government and the United Nations System in China was held in Nanjing City, Jiangsu Province. Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the commemoration. Vice-President Wang Qishan attended the opening ceremony and delivered a keynote speech. UN Secretary-General Guterres sent a video message. The theme of the event was “Working Together to Build a World of Lasting Peace and Universal Security and a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind”. More than 150 people from more than 50 countries including peace organization leaders, security think tank experts and Chinese representatives attended the opening ceremony.

From September 18 to 21, the “Belt and Road” Forum for International Think Tank Cooperation was held in Dunhuang City, Gansu Province. The theme of the forum is “The Road to Civilization for the Future”. The forum is co-sponsored by Silk Road Think Tank Association and the Gansu Provincial People's Government, and organized by China Center for Contemporary World Studies, the Chongyang Finance Research Institute of Renmin University of China, and Lanzhou University. About 200 Chinese and foreign representatives from political parties, think tank, and media from 32 countries including Burundi, Spain, South Korea, New Zealand, Brazil, Canada, and Kazakhstan attended the conference.

From September 20 to 26, at the invitation of former Romanian Prime Minister, Chairman of the Black Sea Organization Foundation, and pro-Romanian Party leader Victor Ponta, Dean of China Region Development & Reform Institute and the executive vice president of China Association for Preservation of Ethnic Minorities' Relics Yu Jin visited Romania. Ponta met with Yu Jin. The two sides fully affirmed the role of their respective think tank organizations in national policy formulation, communication and cultural exchanges, and expressed the desire to accelerate

the action of the strategic partnership framework signed in April 2018.

On September 21, the 2018 Annual Meeting of Dialogues among Civilizations Forum co-sponsored by China Service Center for Friendship and Cooperation with Foreign Countries and Beijing Women's Foreign Exchange Association was held at Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. The forum invited China Public Diplomacy Association, UN Association of China, China Volunteer Service Federation and other organizations as advisory units. Diplomatic envoys and international friends from Austria, South Korea, Pakistan, Japan, Spain, Hungary, Germany, the United States and other countries attended the event. The 2019 annual festival will be held in Bengbu City, Anhui Province, Beijing City and Vienna.

On September 24, Wang Jiarui, Chairman of China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, visited the headquarters of Jaguar Land Rover Corporate. Promoting the all-round development of children and adolescents through the campus education program is the direction of charity cooperation between China Soong Ching Ling Foundation and Jaguar Land Rover Corporate. The China Soong Ching Ling Foundation and Jaguar Land Rover Corporate Youth Dream Fund, established in 2014, will invest 50 million yuan in the first phase, and will continue to invest 30 million yuan in the second phase, focusing on youth development and exchange of Chinese and English humanities in three areas of innovative education, social care, and Sino-UK exchanges. During his stay in the UK, Wang Jiarui also met with former British Prime Minister David Cameron.

On September 26, the China-Laos Environmental Policy Sharing Seminar organized by China Ecological Civilization Research and Promotion Association was held in Vientiane, Laos. More than 20 experts from All-China Environment Federation, Jiangsu Provincial Ecological Civilization Research and Development Association, Jiangning Ecological Civilization Research and Development Association, Chinese

Academy for Environmental Planning, Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy, China-Japan Center and the local environmental protection organizations of Laos attended the meeting. Representatives of non-governmental organizations of the two countries exchanged work on relevant cooperation. The event was supported by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China.

On September 27, the 3rd Silk Road (Dunhuang) International Cultural Expo opened in Dunhuang City, Gansu Province. This expo was jointly sponsored by the Gansu Provincial People's Government and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade. It organized activities of conferences, forums, performances, exhibitions with the theme of "showing the Silk Road, promoting cultural exchanges, and making the world more harmonious and beautiful". 1,300 Chinese and foreign representatives of nearly 100 countries and regions and international organizations attended the conference.

From September 28 to 30, the 35th annual plenary meeting of InterAction Council was held in Beijing. Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter. The theme of this year's annual plenary meeting is "Global Governance: A Necessity for Our Times ". The annual plenary meeting was hosted by InterAction Council, and Chinese Association for International Understanding was Chinese cooperative partner. Founded in 1983, InterAction Council is an international non-governmental organization composed of former heads of state and government of many countries. It aims to put forward suggestions and solutions to global political, economic and social issues. The 11th annual meeting was held in Shanghai in 1993 and the 30th annual meeting in Tianjin in 2012.