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LETTING THE WORLD UNDERSTAND CHINA
AND LETTING CHINA UNDERSTAND THE WORLD



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Letters may be edited for length or content.

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[Editor's Note] From April 25th to 27th, the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) was successfully held in Beijing. The theme of this year's BRF is "Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future". The Forum events include the opening ceremony, a leaders' roundtable, a high-level meeting, 12 thematic forums, a CEO conference and other side events. Altogether 40 leaders, including heads of state and government of 38 countries (including China) as well as UN Secretary-General and IMF Chief, attended the Leaders' Roundtable. More than 6000 foreign guests from 150 countries and 92 international organizations participated in the Forum. President Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony of the Forum and delivered a keynote speech. He presided over the Leaders' Roundtable and held bilateral meetings with leaders of the participating countries. The BRF is the highest-level platform for international cooperation under the framework of Belt and Road cooperation, focusing on building international consensus and drawing a blueprint for Belt and Road cooperation. The second BRF is China's most important home-field diplomacy this year, at which 283 pragmatic achievements of six categories have been made. It has become a milestone in promoting the Belt and Road development from making high-level plans to intensive and meticulous implementation, which opens up more space for global economic growth and makes new contribution to building a community of shared future for mankind.



Working Together to Deliver a Brighter Future for Belt and Road Cooperation

Keynote Speech by H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China at the Opening Ceremony of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

Beijing, 26 April 2019

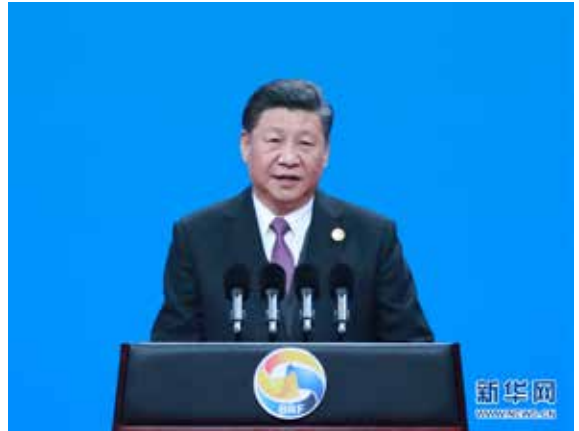
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Your Excellencies High-level Representatives,
Your Excellencies Heads of International Organizations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,

Good morning! As a line of a classical Chinese poem goes, "Spring and autumn are lovely seasons in which friends get together to climb up mountains and write poems." On this beautiful spring day, it gives me great pleasure to have you with us here at the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF). On behalf of the Chinese government and people and in my own name, I extend a very warm welcome to you all!

Two years ago, it was here that we met for the First Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, where we drew a blueprint of cooperation to enhance policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity. Today, we are once again meeting here with you, friends from across the world. I look forward to scaling new heights with you and enhancing our partnership. Together, we will create an even brighter future for Belt and Road cooperation.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The joint pursuit of the Belt and Road Initiative



(BRI) aims to enhance connectivity and practical cooperation. It is about jointly meeting various challenges and risks confronting mankind and delivering win-win outcomes and common development. Thanks to the joint efforts of all of us involved in this initiative, a general connectivity framework consisting of six corridors, six connectivity routes and multiple countries and ports has been put in place. A large number of cooperation projects have been launched, and the decisions of the first BRF have been smoothly implemented. More than 150 countries and international organizations have signed agreements on Belt and Road cooperation with China. The complementarity between the BRI and the development plans or cooperation initiatives of international and regional organizations such as the United Nations, the

Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the African Union, the European Union, the Eurasian Economic Union and between the BRI and the development strategies of the participating countries has been enhanced. From the Eurasian continent to Africa, the Americas and Oceania, Belt and Road cooperation has opened up new space for global economic growth, produced new platforms for international trade and investment and offered new ways for improving global economic governance. Indeed, this initiative has helped improve people's lives in countries involved and created more opportunities for common prosperity. What we have achieved amply demonstrates that Belt and Road cooperation has both generated new opportunities for the development of all participating countries and opened up new horizon for China's development and opening-up.

An ancient Chinese philosopher observed that "plants with strong roots grow well, and efforts with the right focus will ensure success." The Belt and Road cooperation embraces the historical trend of economic globalization, responds to the call for improving the global governance system and meets people's longing for a better life. Going ahead, we should focus on priorities and project execution, move forward with results-oriented implementation, just like an architect refining the blueprint, and jointly promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

- We need to be guided by the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. We need to act in the spirit of multilateralism, pursue cooperation through consultation and keep all participants motivated. We may, by engaging in bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation, fully tap into the strengths of all participants. Just as a Chinese proverb says, "A tower is built when soil on earth accumulates, and a river is formed when streams come together."

- We need to pursue open, green and clean cooperation. The Belt and Road is not an exclusive club; it aims to promote green development. We may launch green infrastructure projects, make green investment and provide green financing to protect the

Earth which we all call home. In pursuing Belt and Road cooperation, everything should be done in a transparent way, and we should have zero tolerance for corruption. The Beijing Initiative for Clean Silk Road has been launched, which represents our strong commitment to transparency and clean governance in pursuing Belt and Road cooperation.

- We need to pursue high standard cooperation to improve people's lives and promote sustainable development. We will adopt widely accepted rules and standards and encourage participating companies to follow general international rules and standards in project development, operation, procurement and tendering and bidding. The laws and regulations of participating countries should also be respected. We need to take a people-centered approach, give priority to poverty alleviation and job creation to see that the joint pursuit of Belt and Road cooperation will deliver true benefits to the people of participating countries and contribute to their social and economic development. We also need to ensure the commercial and fiscal sustainability of all projects so that they will achieve the intended goals as planned.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Connectivity is vital to advancing Belt and Road cooperation. We need to promote a global partnership of connectivity to achieve common development and prosperity. I am confident that as we work closely together, we will transcend geographical distance and embark on a path of win-win cooperation.

Infrastructure is the bedrock of connectivity, while the lack of infrastructure has held up the development of many countries. High-quality, sustainable, resilient, affordable, inclusive and accessible infrastructure projects can help countries fully leverage their resource endowment, better integrate into the global supply, industrial and value chains, and realize inter-connected development. To this end, China will continue to work with other parties to build a connectivity network centering on economic corridors such as the New Eurasian Land Bridge, supplemented by major transportation routes like the China-Europe Railway Express and

the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor and information expressway, and reinforced by major railway, port and pipeline projects. We will continue to make good use of the Belt and Road Special Lending Scheme, the Silk Road Fund, and various special investment funds, develop Silk Road theme bonds, and support the Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance in its operation. We welcome the participation of multilateral and national financial institutions in BRI investment and financing and encourage third-market cooperation. With the involvement of multiple stakeholders, we can surely deliver benefits to all.

The flow of goods, capital, technology and people will power economic growth and create broad space for it. As a Chinese saying goes, "The ceaseless inflow of rivers makes the ocean deep." However, were such inflow to be cut, the ocean, however big, would eventually dry up. We need to promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, say no to protectionism, and make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all. To this end, we will enter into negotiation with more countries to conclude high-standard free trade agreements, and strengthen cooperation in customs, taxation and audit oversight by setting up the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism and accelerating international collaboration on the mutual recognition of Authorized Economic Operators. We have also formulated the Guiding Principles on Financing the Development of the Belt and Road and published the Debt Sustainability Framework for Participating Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative to provide guidance for BRI financing cooperation. In addition, the Second China International Import Expo will be held this year to build an even bigger platform for other parties to access the Chinese market.

Innovation boosts productivity; it makes companies competitive and countries strong. We need to keep up with the trend of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, jointly seize opportunities created by digital, networked and smart development, explore

new technologies and new forms and models of business, foster new growth drivers and explore new development pathways, and build the digital Silk Road and the Silk Road of innovation. China will continue to carry out the Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Action Plan, and will work with our partners to pursue four major initiatives, namely the Science and Technology People-to-People Exchange Initiative, the Joint Laboratory Initiative, the Science Park Cooperation Initiative, and the Technology Transfer Initiative. We will actively implement the Belt and Road Initiative Talents Exchange Program, and will, in the coming five years, offer 5,000 opportunities for exchange, training and cooperative research for talents from China and other BRI participating countries. We will also support companies of various countries in jointly advancing ICT infrastructure building to upgrade cyber connectivity.

Imbalance in development is the greatest imbalance confronting today's world. In the joint pursuit of the BRI, we must always take a development-oriented approach and see that the vision of sustainable development underpins project selection, implementation and management. We need to strengthen international development cooperation so as to create more opportunities for developing countries, help them eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. In this connection, China and its partners have set up the Belt and Road Sustainable Cities Alliance and the BRI International Green Development Coalition, formulated the Green Investment Principles for the Belt and Road Development, and launched the Declaration on Accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals for Children through Shared Development. We have set up the BRI Environmental Big Data Platform. We will continue to implement the Green Silk Road Envoys Program and work with relevant countries to jointly implement the Belt and Road South-South Cooperation Initiative on Climate Change. We will also deepen cooperation in agriculture, health, disaster mitigation and water resources; and we will enhance development cooperation with the United

Nations to narrow the gap in development.

We need to build bridges for exchanges and mutual learning among different cultures, deepen cooperation in education, science, culture, sports, tourism, health and archaeology, strengthen exchanges between parliaments, political parties and non-governmental organizations and exchanges between women, young people and people with disabilities in order to facilitate multi-faceted people-to-people exchanges. To this end, we will, in the coming five years, invite 10,000 representatives of political parties, think tanks and non-governmental organizations from Belt and Road participating countries to visit China. We will encourage and support extensive cooperation on livelihood projects among social organizations of participating countries, conduct a number of environmental protection and anti-corruption training courses and deepen human resources development cooperation in various areas. We will continue to run the Chinese government scholarship Silk Road Program, host the International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads and the "Chinese Bridge" summer camps. We will also put in place new mechanisms such as the Belt and Road Studies Network and the Belt and Road News Alliance to draw inspiration and pool our strength for greater synergy.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Seven decades ago, through the arduous struggle carried out by several generations of Chinese people and under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, New China was founded. We Chinese have since stood up and held our future in our own hands.

Over the past seven decades, we in China have, based on its realities, constantly explored the way forward through practices, and have succeeded in following the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Today, China has reached a new historical starting point. However, we are keenly aware that with all we have achieved, there are still many mountains to scale and many shoals to navigate. We will continue

to advance along the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, deepen sweeping reforms, pursue quality development, and expand opening-up. We remain committed to peaceful development and will endeavor to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

Going forward, China will take a series of major reform and opening-up measures and make stronger institutional and structural moves to boost higher quality opening-up.

First, we will expand market access for foreign investment in more areas. Fair competition boosts business performance and creates prosperity. China has already adopted a management model based on pre-establishment national treatment and negative list, and will continue to significantly shorten the negative list. We will work for the all-round opening-up of modern services, manufacturing and agriculture, and will allow the operation of foreign-controlled or wholly foreign-owned businesses in more sectors. We will plan new pilot free trade zones and explore at a faster pace the opening of a free trade port. We will accelerate the adoption of supporting regulations to ensure full implementation of the Foreign Investment Law. We will promote supply-side structural reform through fair competition and open cooperation, and will phase out backward and excessive production capacity in an effective way to improve the quality and efficiency of supply.

Second, we will intensify efforts to enhance international cooperation in intellectual property protection. Without innovation, there will be no progress. Full intellectual property protection will not only ensure the lawful rights and interests of Chinese and foreign companies; it is also crucial to promoting China's innovation-driven and quality development. China will spare no effort to foster a business environment that respects the value of knowledge. We will fully improve the legal framework for protecting intellectual property, step up law enforcement, enhance protection of the lawful rights and interests of foreign intellectual property owners, stop forced technology transfer, improve

protection of trade secrets, and crack down hard on violations of intellectual property in accordance with law. China will strengthen cooperation with other countries in intellectual property protection, create an enabling environment for innovation and promote technological exchanges and cooperation with other countries on the basis of market principles and the rule of law.

Third, we will increase the import of goods and services on an even larger scale. China is both a global factory and a global market. With the world's largest and fastest growing middle-income population, China has a vast potential for increasing consumption. To meet our people's ever-growing material and cultural needs and give our consumers more choices and benefits, we will further lower tariffs and remove various non-tariff barriers. We will steadily open China's market wider to quality products from across the world. China does not seek trade surplus; we want to import more competitive quality agricultural products, manufactured goods and services to promote balanced trade.

Fourth, we will more effectively engage in international macro-economic policy coordination. A globalized economy calls for global governance. China will strengthen macro policy coordination with other major economies to generate a positive spillover and jointly contribute to robust, sustainable, balanced and inclusive global growth. China will not resort to the beggar-thy-neighbor practice of RMB devaluation. On the contrary, we will continue to improve the exchange rate regime, see that the market plays a decisive role in resource allocation and keep the RMB exchange rate basically stable at an adaptive and equilibrium level. These steps will help ensure the steady growth of the global economy. Rules and credibility underpin the effective functioning of the international governance system; they are the prerequisite for growing international economic and trade relations. China is an active supporter and participant of WTO reform and will work with others to develop international economic and trade rules of higher standards.

Fifth, we will work harder to ensure the implementation of opening-up related policies. We Chinese have a saying that honoring a promise carries the weight of gold. We are committed to implementing multilateral and bilateral economic and trade agreements reached with other countries. We will strengthen the building of a government based on the rule of law and good faith. A binding mechanism for honoring international agreements will be put in place. Laws and regulations will be revised and improved in keeping with the need to expand opening-up. We will see that governments at all levels operate in a well-regulated way when it comes to issuing administrative licenses and conducting market oversight. We will overhaul and abolish unjustified regulations, subsidies and practices that impede fair competition and distort the market. We will treat all enterprises and business entities equally, and foster an enabling business environment based on market operation and governed by law.

These measures to expand opening-up are a choice China has made by itself to advance its reform and development. It will promote high-quality economic development, meet the people's desire for a better life, and contribute to world peace, stability and development. We hope that other countries will also create an enabling environment of investment, treat Chinese enterprises, students and scholars as equals, and provide a fair and friendly environment for them to engage in international exchanges and cooperation. We are convinced that a more open China will further integrate itself into the world and deliver greater progress and prosperity for both China and the world at large.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Let us join hands to sow the seeds of cooperation, harvest the fruits of development, bring greater happiness to our people and make our world a better place for all!

In conclusion, I wish the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation a full success!

Thank you!

Promoting High-Quality Development of Belt and Road Cooperation

Opening Remarks by H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China at the Leaders' Roundtable of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

Beijing, 27 April 2019

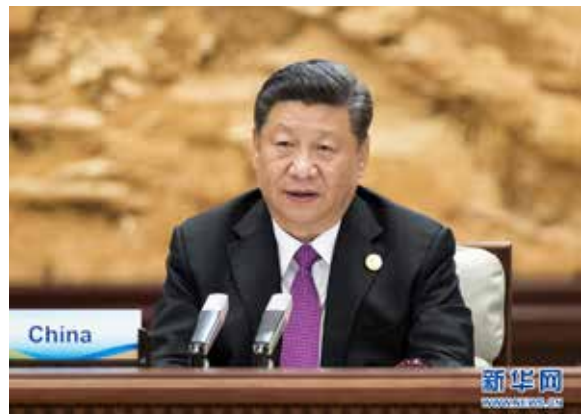
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Heads of International Organizations,

I now declare that the Leaders' Roundtable of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) opens!

Back in May 2017, many of us around the table attended the Leaders' Roundtable in the same venue. Together we issued a joint communiqué, identified the objectives, principles and measures for Belt and Road cooperation, and achieved concrete deliverables covering many areas.

In the past two years, under the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, we have made all-round progress in policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity, lending new impetus to global growth and opening new space for global development.

By hosting the second BRF, we wish to work



with all parties to advance results-oriented implementation of projects, just like an architect refining the blueprint, and promote more solid progress in our cooperation to deliver greater benefits to our people.

First, we hope to work with all parties to further substantiate the guiding principles for high-quality development of Belt and Road cooperation. It is imperative that we fully implement the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits to see that all have their voices heard, all reach their full potential and all stand

to benefit. The BRI must be open, green and clean, and follows a high-standard, people-centered and sustainable approach. We should make our support for the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development an integral part of Belt and Road cooperation, align our cooperation with universally accepted rules, standards and best practices, and pursue economic growth, social progress and environmental protection in a balanced way. The BRI should be beneficial to all and deliver common development.

Second, we hope to work with all parties to identify cooperation priorities and strengthen all-round connectivity. This requires that we continue to focus on infrastructure connectivity. We also need to deepen cooperation in frontier areas such as smart manufacturing and digital economy to achieve innovation-driven development. We must open our markets wider and enhance trade and investment facilitation for unimpeded flows of goods. We need to build diversified financing systems and multi-tiered capital markets. We should promote extensive people-to-people exchanges in various forms and undertake more cooperation projects that help improve people's lives. All in all, the goal is to achieve all-round connectivity that produces multiplying effects in infrastructure development, industrial clustering, economic growth and people's well-being.

Third, we hope to work with all parties to bolster cooperation mechanisms and foster partnerships on connectivity. We need to work together to keep the world economy open and reject protectionism. We must make continued efforts to enhance the complementarity and synergy between the Belt and Road cooperation and the development strategies and agenda at national, regional and international levels. Through bilateral, tripartite and multilateral cooperation, we need to encourage the full participation of more countries and companies, thus expanding the pie of common interests. In the spirit of multilateralism, we need to earnestly advance the institution building for Belt and Road cooperation to provide a strong underpinning for our practical cooperation in various fields.

I am confident that with all of us working together, we can build more consensus and achieve more outcomes at today's roundtable, and that our joint efforts to promote Belt and Road cooperation will bring greater benefits to our peoples and contribute more to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Thank you.

Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future

Joint Communiqué of the Leaders' Roundtable of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

Beijing, 27 April 2019

1. We, President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China, President Ilham Aliyev of the Republic of Azerbaijan, President Alexander Lukashenko of the Republic of Belarus, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei Darussalam, President Sebastián Piñera Echenique of the Republic of Chile, President Nicos Anastasiades of the Republic of Cyprus, President Miloš Zeman of the Czech Republic, President Ismail Omar Guelleh of the Republic of Djibouti, President Abdul Fatah Al-Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan - Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev, President Uhuru Kenyatta of the Republic of Kenya, President Sooronbai Zheenbekov of the Kyrgyz Republic, President Bounnhang Vorachith of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, President Khaltmaagiin Battulga of Mongolia, President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi of the Republic of Mozambique, President Bidya Devi Bhandari of Nepal, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte of the Republic of the Philippines, President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa of the Portuguese Republic, President Vladimir Putin of the Russian

Federation, President Aleksandar Vučić of the Republic of Serbia, President Ueli Maurer of the Swiss Confederation, President Emomali Rahmon of the Republic of Tajikistan, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Vice President and Prime Minister H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, Chancellor Sebastian Kurz of the Republic of Austria, Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras of the Hellenic Republic, Prime Minister Orbán Viktor of Hungary, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte of the Italian Republic, Prime Minister Mahathir Bin Mohamad of Malaysia, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Prime Minister Imran Khan of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Prime Minister Peter O'Neill of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of the Republic of Singapore, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha of the Kingdom of Thailand, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam,

and Vice President Jusuf Kalla of the Republic of Indonesia, met in Beijing on 27 April 2019 for the Leaders' Roundtable of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation themed on Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future. We also welcome the participation of Secretary-General António Guterres of the United Nations and Managing Director Christine Lagarde of the International Monetary Fund. The Leaders' Roundtable was chaired by President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China.

2. We met at a time when the world economy is facing both expanding opportunities and rising challenges, complicated by profound and rapid changes in the world. We reaffirm that strengthening multilateralism remains essential in addressing global challenges. We also believe that an open, inclusive, interconnected, sustainable and people-centered world economy can contribute to prosperity for all.

3. Recalling the Joint Communiqué of the Leaders' Roundtable of the 1st Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, including the cooperation objectives, principles and measures contained therein, and reaffirming our commitment to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we reiterate that promoting peace, development and human rights, mutually-beneficial cooperation, and honoring the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law are our common responsibilities; achieving strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth and improving people's quality of life are our common goals; creating a prosperous and peaceful world with shared future is our common aspiration.

4. The ancient Silk Road contributed to the strengthening of the connectivity and the

expansion of the world economy in the spirit of promoting peace and cooperation, openness, inclusiveness, equality, mutual learning and mutual benefit. We look forward to restoring and rejuvenating such spirit, through the Belt and Road Initiative and other cooperation frameworks and initiatives.

5. As cooperation partners, we appreciate the progress already made and important opportunities created in the Belt and Road cooperation, especially the outcomes in areas such as development policy synergy, increased infrastructure investment, economic corridors, economic and trade cooperation zones, industrial parks, finance and trade cooperation, innovation and technology, maritime cooperation, business-to-business ties, people-to-people and cultural exchange. Such cooperation explores new sources of growth and offers potential for economic and social development, and contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

6. Looking into the future, we envisage high-quality Belt and Road cooperation in enhancing connectivity by promoting development policy synergy, infrastructure development, unimpeded trade, financial cooperation and people-to-people bond, thereby enhancing practical cooperation for the well-being of our peoples. In this context, we look forward to more efforts by cooperation partners.

--Such cooperation will be based on extensive consultation, joint efforts, shared and mutual benefits. We emphasize the importance of the rule of law and equal opportunities for all. We endeavor to move on with policy and project cooperation through voluntary participation and consensus-building, based on common

responsibility and outcomes. All states are equal partners for cooperation that respects openness, transparency, inclusiveness and level playing field. We respect sovereignty and territorial integrity of each other and affirm that each country has the right and primary responsibility to define its development strategies in accordance with its national priorities and legislation.

--Such cooperation will be open, green and clean. We embrace open economy and inclusive, non-discriminatory global market. All interested countries are welcome to join in such cooperation. We underline the importance of promoting green development and addressing the challenges of environmental protection and climate change including by enhancing our cooperation to implement the Paris Agreement. We encourage more efforts in building a culture of integrity and combating corruption.

--Such cooperation will pursue high standard, people-centered and sustainable development. We will work together in line with our national legislation, regulatory frameworks, international obligations, applicable international norms and standards. We believe that relevant cooperation should be people-centered and conducive to inclusive quality economic growth and broad-based improvement of people's livelihood. We are committed to promoting sustainability in all its dimensions.

7. We start from the conviction that connectivity contributes to boosting growth, economic and social development, trade in goods and services, as well as investment and creating employment opportunities and better communication and exchanges among peoples. In this regard, promoting global partnership on connectivity, based on transparency, openness and

inclusiveness, provides an opportunity for all. Today, through such partnership including the Belt and Road Initiative and other cooperation strategies, we resolve to promote international cooperation, at sub-regional, regional and global levels aiming at a brighter shared future and common prosperity. We support a universal, rules-based, open, transparent and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system with WTO at its core.

Strengthening Development Policy Synergy

8. To sustain common development, we welcome sound macroeconomic policies, encourage discussions with regard to Sustainable Development Agenda and will work together to enhance macroeconomic policy dialogue at the UN and other multilateral fora, and promote synergies among related development plans and connectivity initiatives based on the progress already made.

9. In this regard, we also emphasize the opportunities arising from the initiatives and cooperation frameworks, including, inter alia, the ACMECS Master Plan (2019-2023), the African Union including Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), APEC Connectivity Blueprint, the Arab League, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) including Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, ASEAN Smart Cities Network and ASEAN Initiative on Connecting the Connectivities, ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity, BIMP-East ASEAN Growth Area, Central Asian Connectivity, Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Dubai Silk Road Strategy, EU strategy on connecting Europe and Asia, EU-China Connectivity Platform, EU Eastern

Partnership, Eurasian Economic Union, Eurasian partnership, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), Global Infrastructure Connectivity Alliance, International G-Global Project, Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, Organization of American States, Pacific Alliance, Pacific Islands Forum, Union for the Mediterranean and those sub-regional and regional cooperation initiatives between all partners.

10. Determined to pursue trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, we aspire to further open our markets, reject protectionism, unilateralism and other measures that are incompatible with WTO rules. We highlight the importance of special and differential treatment in accordance with WTO agreements.

11. We recognize the importance of improving customs facilitation including by encouraging better cooperation and coordination of relevant agencies involved in border clearance, mutual assistance, information sharing and cooperation, streamlining customs and transit procedures. We encourage such facilitation to be consistent with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and accompanied by efficient and effective controls to, inter alia, prevent illicit trade and fight fraud.

12. We call for strengthened cooperation on foreign direct investment and joint ventures in the context of our national laws and international commitments, and encourage an enabling and predictable environment for the promotion of investment and new business opportunities.

13. We intend to enhance cooperation in tax matters, encourage more agreements on avoidance of double taxation, and promote growth-friendly tax policies. To achieve these goals, we aim

to work within existing international taxation cooperation frameworks.

14. We endeavor to forge inclusive and diversified global value chains, beneficial to all partners. We encourage greater cooperation on innovation, while protecting intellectual property rights. We also encourage the introduction of digital transport accompanying documents.

15. We support the development of sustainable blue economy and call for further developing maritime links and intensifying international maritime cooperation, including among ports and shipping industries, while sustainably managing marine and coastal ecosystems.

Boosting Infrastructure Connectivity

16. To sustain interconnected growth, we support comprehensive and multi-modal infrastructure connectivity, fostering economic growth and improving the standards of living catalyzed by infrastructure investment. We support policies and activities that help land-locked countries to transform into land-linked ones, including by strengthening connectivity and cooperation on transit arrangements and infrastructure.

17. We will strive to build high-quality, reliable, resilient and sustainable infrastructure. We emphasize that high-quality infrastructure should be viable, affordable, accessible, inclusive and broadly beneficial over its entire life-cycle, contributing to sustainable development of participating countries and the industrialization of developing countries. We welcome developed countries and international investors to invest in connectivity projects in the developing countries. We emphasize the importance of economic, social, fiscal, financial and environmental

sustainability of projects, while striking a good balance among economic growth, social progress and environmental protection.

18. In the interest of sustainability, we support improving cooperation in project preparation and implementation, to promote projects that are investable, bankable, economically viable and environment-friendly. We call on all market players in the Belt and Road cooperation to fulfill their corporate social responsibility and follow the principles of UN Global Compact.

19. We acknowledge that transport infrastructure constitutes a foundation of connectivity. We encourage the development of interoperability of infrastructure to enhance air, land and sea connectivity among countries, including through interoperable and multi-modal transport. We recognize the importance of development of trans-regional transport and logistic routes including the ones connecting Central Asia with Caucasus, Europe, Africa, South and Southeast Asia and the Pacific region to increase its transport and communication potential.

20. We support strengthening energy infrastructure, in order to enhance energy security and to promote global access to affordable, clean, renewable and sustainable energy for all.

21. We aim to enhance connectivity among financial markets, in accordance with respective national laws and regulations as well as international commitments, while bearing in mind the importance of financial inclusion.

Promoting Sustainable Development

22. To promote sustainable and low-carbon development, we appreciate the efforts to foster green development towards ecological

sustainability. We encourage the development of green finance including the issuance of green bonds as well as development of green technology. We also encourage exchanges of good practices on ecological and environmental policies towards a high level of environmental protection.

23. Determined to protect the planet from degradation, we look forward to a climate resilient future and enhance our cooperation in areas such as environment protection, circular economy, clean energy and energy efficiency, sustainable and integrated water resources management including support to the countries adversely affected by climate change, in line with internationally agreed principles and obligations so as to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions - economic, social and environmental - in a balanced and integrated manner. We support the implementation of the UN resolution on Midterm Comprehensive Review of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028.

24. We encourage more cooperation in sustainable agriculture, forestry and protecting biological diversity. We agree to promote cooperation in resilience and disaster-risk reduction and management.

25. We support international anti-corruption cooperation and work towards zero tolerance in anti-corruption, consistent with national laws and regulations. We call for more international cooperation in line with our applicable respective obligations under international conventions, such as UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and relevant bilateral treaties. We look forward to strengthening international cooperation and exchanges of good practices and practical cooperation.

Strengthening Practical Cooperation

26. To achieve and sustain shared prosperity, practical cooperation should be strengthened. Such cooperation needs to be people-centered, result-based and growth-oriented, in accordance with market rules and our respective legal frameworks supported by the government when necessary. We encourage the participation by enterprises from all countries in the cooperation, including micro, small and medium enterprises. We highlight the importance of open, transparent and non-discriminatory public procurement procedures in accordance with national laws and regulations and welcome the exchanges of good practices.

27. We support continued efforts to build on the progress already made in developing economic corridors and economic and trade cooperation zones as annexed as well as other cooperation projects across all areas related to the Belt and Road Initiative, and further cooperation on value chains, industry chains and supply chains.

28. We will continue our efforts towards strengthening multi-modal transportation including inland waterways in landlocked countries, roads, railway networks, air, land and sea ports and pipelines in line with international law and respective domestic laws. We encourage digital infrastructure including transnational fiber-optic highways, promoting e-commerce and smart cities, and helping narrow the digital divide while drawing on international good practices.

29. We encourage third-market, tripartite cooperation and Public Private Partnership (PPP) cooperation and welcome more efforts by enterprises and relevant international organizations consistent with national laws and

regulations. We welcome legal cooperation, including the availability of dispute resolution services and legal assistance for the business sector.

30. We support collaboration among national and international financial institutions to provide diversified and sustainable financial supports for projects. We encourage local currency financing, mutual establishment of financial institutions, and a greater role of development finance in line with respective national priorities, laws, regulations and international commitments, and the agreed principles by the UNGA on debt sustainability. We encourage multilateral development banks and other international financial institutions to reinforce their support to connectivity projects in fiscally sustainable ways as well as the mobilization of private capital into projects in line with local needs.

31. We stress the importance of the development of water-saving technologies and agricultural innovations as an important component providing food security and supporting sustainable development. We stress the importance of cooperation on veterinary-sanitary and phytosanitary matters for agricultural products in order to facilitate trade and investment.

32. We take note of the thematic sectoral platforms as seen in the annex.

Advancing People-to-People Exchanges

33. Considering connectivity as a means of bringing countries, peoples and societies closer together, we believe the Belt and Road cooperation promotes exchanges, mutual learning and dialogue among different peoples, cultures and civilizations. We welcome efforts to expand

people-to-people exchanges including those between the youth.

34. We emphasize the importance of strengthening cooperation in human resources development, education, vocational and professional training, and build up the capacity of our peoples to better adapt to the future of work, so as to promote employment and improve their livelihoods.

35. We look forward to further exchanges and cooperation in areas of science and technology, culture, arts, creative economy, rural development and folk crafts, archaeology and paleontology, protection of cultural and natural heritages, tourism, health, sports etc.

36. We welcome communication among parliaments, sister provinces and cities, think tanks, academia, media, civil societies, as well as exchanges among women, persons with disabilities, and cooperation on overseas workers.

Way Forward

37. We welcome the efforts to further promote bilateral and international cooperation with China under the Belt and Road Initiative. We envisage the Belt and Road Forum on regular basis with possible follow-up events.

38. We thank and congratulate China for hosting the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and look forward to the 3rd Forum.

Annex

1. Economic corridors and other projects catalyzed and supported by connectivity:

(1) Addis Ababa-Djibouti economic corridor, including the development of industrial parks along the economic corridor

(2) Agua Negra Pass International Tunnel

(3) Baku-Tbilisi-Kars new railway line and Alyat free economic zone in Baku

(4) Brunei-Guangxi economic corridor

(5) China-Central Asia-West Asia economic corridor

(6) China-Europe Land-Sea Express Line

(7) China-Indochina Peninsula economic corridor, including Laos-China

economic corridor

(8) China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan International Highway

(9) China-Laos-Thailand Railway Cooperation

(10) China-Malaysia Qinzhou Industrial Park

(11) China-Mongolia-Russia economic corridor

(12) China-Myanmar economic corridor

(13) China-Pakistan economic corridor

(14) Eastern Economic Corridor in Thailand

(15) Economic corridor in Greater Mekong Subregion

(16) the EU Trans-European Transport Networks

(17) Europe-Caucasus-Asia International Transport corridor and TransCaspian International Transport Route

(18) the Industrial Park "Great Stone"

(19) International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)

(20) the Lake Victoria-Mediterranean Sea Navigation Line-Linkage Project (VICMED)

(21) the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport corridor

(22) Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park

(23) the Nepal-China Trans-Himalayan Multi-dimensional Connectivity Network, including Nepal-China cross-border railway

(24) New Eurasian Land Bridge

(25) the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor of the China- Singapore (Chongqing) Demonstration Initiative on Strategic Connectivity

(26) Northern Corridor Trade Route in Africa

linking the maritime port of Mombasa to countries of the Great Lakes region of Africa and Trans-Africa Highway

(27)North-South Passage Cairo-Capetown Pass-way

(28)the Port of Piraeus

(29)Port Sudan-Ethiopia Railway Connectivity

(30)Regional Comprehensive economic corridors in Indonesia

(31)the Suez Canal Economic Zone

(32)Transcontinental shipment of cargo using the capacities of the Northern Sea Route

(33)Transoceanic fiber optic cable

(34)"Two Corridors and One Belt" Framework

(35)Uzbekistan-Tajikistan-China International Highway

2.Sectoral multilateral cooperation initiatives and platforms:

(1)the Advisory Council of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

(2)the Alliance of International Science Organizations in the Belt and Road Region

(3)Beijing Initiative for the Clean Silk Road

(4)Belt and Road Energy Partnership

(5)Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism

(6)Belt and Road News Alliance

(7)Belt and Road Studies Network

(8)Digital Silk Road Initiative

(9)Guiding Principles on Financing the Development of the Belt and Road

(10)the International Academy of Science of the Silk Road

(11)International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road

(12)Joint Statement on Pragmatic Cooperation in the Field of Intellectual Property Among Countries Along the Belt and Road

(13)Joint Working Group on China Railway Express to Europe

(14)Ningbo Initiative on the Maritime Silk Road Port Cooperation

3.Other relevant efforts referred to by participants:

(1)African Continental Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA)

(2)Ancient Civilizations Forum initiated by Greece

(3)APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in 2019 in Chile

(4)Belt and Road Forum for international cooperation in Belarus

(5)Belt and Road lane for fast-track entry and exit at the land and air ports set up by Mongolia and interested countries

(6)the First Forum of Mayors of Silk Road Countries held in Kazakhstan in 2018

(7)the Global Silk Road Award initiated by Kazakhstan

(8)the initiative by Mongolia to establish an award that encourages young scholars and diplomats to promote the Belt and Road cooperation

(9)Pan-Arab Free Trade Agreement (PAFTA)

(10)the Santiago Climate Change Conference on its 25th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP25) to the UNFCCC in 2019 in Chile

(11)Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Kenya in 2018

(12)the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation

(13)the UNWTO International Meeting on the Silk Road Tourism in Greece in 2018

(14)the World Forum on inter-cultural dialogue within the framework of Baku Process

(15)the World Youth Forum held in Egypt in 2018

[Editor's Note] The Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was successfully held in Beijing on April 25th, 2019. The Thematic Forum was organized by the International Department, Central Committee of CPC, and co-organized by 17 government agencies and organizations including the National Development and Reform Commission. With “Promoting People-to-People Connectivity, Sharing People’s Livelihood Cooperation and Creating a Better Life” as the theme, the Forum summed up the achievements of the Belt and Road development in the field of people-to-people connectivity, and planed key development directions in the future. More than 130 foreign guests from 61 countries attended the Thematic Forum. Chinese and foreign guests gathered together to review the achievements in people-to-people connectivity, discuss and explore future plans and look to the future prospect. The main agenda includes four parts, namely, keynote speeches and guest speeches, group presentations, story sharing and kick-off of the “Silk Road Community Building” initiative.

Minister Song Tao of the International Department, Central Committee of CPC, delivered a keynote speech. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of Mozambique and the Mozambique Liberation Front, Aleksandar Vučić, President of the Republic of Serbia and the Serbian Kadima Party, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Cui Shi'an, Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region, also delivered speeches respectively.

Participants agreed that people-to-people connectivity is the most in-depth, long-term and fundamental connectivity. All parties shall build a bridge of people-to-people connectivity, pave the way of heart-to-heart connections and lay a solid foundation of people-to-people affinity in a more positive attitude, and work for greater achievements in the Belt and Road construction, so as to benefit more people.



Working Together to Promote People-to-People Connectivity and Shape a Brighter Future

Keynote Speech by Minister Song Tao of the International Department, Central Committee of CPC at the Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

Your Excellency President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi of Mozambique,

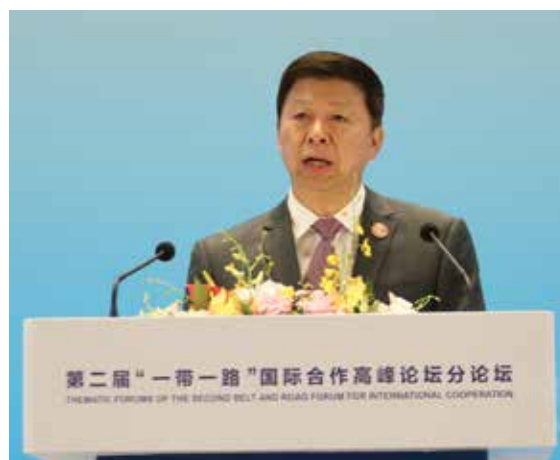
Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

Good morning!

In this beautiful season of spring with gentle breeze and warm sunshine, I am very pleased to meet with you in Beijing and attend the Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF). First of all, on behalf of the organizer of the conference, the International Department, Central Committee of CPC, and the co-organizers, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the guests!

Since General Secretary and President Xi Jinping proposed the important Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) six years ago, we have been adhering to the principle of “extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits” to promote the Belt and Road construction, and received enthusiastic response and extensive participation from all parties concerned. So far, 125 countries and 29 international organizations have signed relevant cooperation documents with China.



People-to-people connectivity is an important part as well as the foundation and goal of the Belt and Road construction. We are delighted to see that in the past six years, especially since the Parallel Thematic Meeting on “Enhancing People-to-People Connectivity” of the First BRF was held, many new developments have been achieved in the work of people-to-people connectivity, making unique contribution to the smooth progress of the Belt and Road construction.

First, the concept of people-to-people connectivity is deepening. It is widely recognized that to pave the “Belt and Road” for cooperation and win-

win, it is necessary to build a bridge for people-to-people connectivity. In recent years, around the promotion of people-to-people connectivity, exchanges and interactions between political parties, governments, enterprises, media, think tanks and social organizations have become increasingly frequent. More than 500 social organizations have built networks of transnational social organizations and realized the connection of social organizations of various countries, making the BRI more deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. The Belt and Road Think Tank Cooperation Alliance currently has 252 think tanks from China and countries along the Belt and Road, and regularly publishes the Report on People-to-People Connectivity Along the Belt and Road, which has played a positive role in popularizing the concept of people-to-people connectivity and promoting the resolution of related issues.

Second, the mechanism of people-to-people connectivity is improved. The in-depth advancement of the work of people-to-people connectivity is inseparable from the construction of mechanisms and platforms. The cultural, tourism, education and health departments of various countries have actively established cooperation platforms, improved service guarantee measures, and supported social forces to participate in the work of people-to-people connectivity. Social organizations, universities, think tanks and medical institutions in China and countries along the Belt and Road have successively initiated the establishment of “Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network”, “Silk Road Alliance of Universities”, “Silk Road International Alliance of Libraries”, “Silk Road International Alliance of Art Galleries”, “Belt and Road Alliance of News Cooperation”, “Belt and Road Cooperation Network of Public Health” and other exchange mechanisms, providing strong support for the work of people-to-people connectivity.

Third, people-to-people connectivity has yielded fruitful results. In the past six years, more than 100 million Chinese tourists have traveled to countries along the Belt and Road. It is estimated that by 2020, more than 85 million tourists from various countries along the Belt and Road will visit China. In the field of education, in 2017 alone, there were more than 310,000 international students coming to China from countries along the Belt and Road, accounting for 64.8% of the total number of international students coming to China that year. Youth exchanges and mutual visits between countries along the Belt and Road have continued. The “Silk Road Film and Television Bridge Project” attracted nearly 70 countries and regions to participate, and more than 100 film and television products were translated, dubbed and broadcasted. Many cooperation projects on people’s livelihood have been implemented in countries along the Belt and Road, enabling more children from poor families to go to school, more cataract patients to see the light again and more ordinary people to have access to clean drinking water, which have been highly praised by the government and all sectors of the society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

The world today is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. Peace and development remain the call of our times, while destabilizing and uncertain factors continue to rise, and mankind faces many common challenges. General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out that, humanity is at a crossroad, countries should take pragmatic actions rather than adopt a wait-and-see policy, and work together to put the future and destiny of mankind in our own hands. In particular, we should make joint efforts to tackle the deficit in governance, trust, peace and development. The Belt and Road construction is an important platform for building a community of shared future for mankind, and also an important

mechanism of addressing common challenges of mankind and dealing with the four major deficits. To achieve this goal, we must devote our efforts to promote the high-quality development of the Belt and Road, and in particular to achieve people-to-people connectivity. Through the practices over the past six years, we have come to realize that winning the heart of the people is most important in politics, and people-to-people connectivity is the most in-depth, long-term and fundamental form of connectivity. In the new situation of rising counter-globalization trend, populism, conservatism and extremist ideas, the importance of people-to-people connectivity becomes more prominent. It urgently requires us to build the bridge of people-to-people connectivity, pave the way for heart connections and lay a solid foundation for people-to-people affinity in a more positive manner, accelerate efforts to foster a cultural environment of “mutual appreciation, learning & respect” in countries along the Belt and Road (words of General Secretary Xi), and attract more and more partners and supporters of the Belt and Road construction. To this end, we suggest:

First, we shall insist on cultural integration and promote exchanges and mutual learning. General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out that the exchanges and mutual learning between civilizations are the spiritual wealth left by the ancient Silk Road. Countries along the Belt and Road have diverse social systems, religions, and models and concepts of economic development. There are only different civilizations, but no superior or inferior civilizations. Respect for different civilizations, the distinctive features of different cultures and the development paths and models chosen by different countries is the most fundamental part of people-to-people connectivity. Just as an ancient saying goes, “The matching of different colors leads to greater beauty, and the concerto of different music instruments creates

harmony and peace”. To enhance people-to-people connectivity, we must treat each other with an open and inclusive mind, replace conflicts and confrontation with dialogue and exchanges, promote common development through mutual learning, resolve estrangement and prejudice with greater understanding and inclusiveness, and promote harmonious coexistence, emotional resonance and common ideas. Only in this way can we embark on a wide path of the Belt and Road construction, achieve common prosperity, and promote the great cause of building a community of shared future for mankind to take root and bear fruit.

Second, we shall stay open and inclusive and share responsibilities. General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out that openness brings progress while isolation leads to backwardness. The Belt and Road construction is a long-term and arduous systematic project, which requires the participation and cooperation of various stakeholders. Therefore, we shall be open-minded and draw on the strength of all forces. In the process of enhancing people-to-people connectivity, we shall broaden the consensus and give full play to the advantages and roles of various stakeholders. In particular, we shall pay attention to the role and influence of NGOs and private enterprises, and strengthen the cooperation and connections with the United Nations and other multilateral mechanisms. In addition, we shall also encourage the joint efforts of the government and the people by performing respective duties, optimize the allocation of resources, build a bridge of dialogues and communication and a channel of mutual understanding and trust, and pool the wisdom and efforts of the people. In this way, everyone will be a participant and builder of people-to-people connectivity. It needs to be emphasized that the political party is the source of a country’s domestic and foreign policies, as well as the representative and leader of public opinion.

To enhance people-to-people connectivity, we must give full play to the leading role of the political party. Political parties and politicians of various countries shall have a deep insight into the public opinion and turn people's legitimate demands into policy ideas in a timely manner. They shall also have the courage to take on responsibility and better guide the public opinion, so that more and more people can participate in the cause of people-to-people connectivity.

Third, we shall stay committed to pioneering innovation and accelerate the upgrading of cooperation. General Secretary Xi Jinping has pointed out that the Belt and Road construction itself is a pioneering undertaking, which should also be driven by innovation. As the Belt and Road construction enters a new stage, we need to constantly keep pace with the times, seek new breakthroughs with new ideas and take new measures with new initiatives, so as to enhance the people-to-people connectivity. We shall continue to expand cooperation among countries along the Belt and Road in education, science and technology, health, culture, sports, poverty alleviation, ecology and other fields, build more cooperation platforms, open more cooperation channels, explore more cultural connotations, and promote economic cooperation and cultural exchanges. We shall give full play to the role of scientific and technological innovation in enhancing people-to-people connectivity, use the Internet to promote people-to-people connectivity and cooperation in a more systematic, in-depth, detailed and effective direction, and strive to create a multi-tiered, all-dimensional and upgraded network of people-to-people connectivity and cooperation.

Fourth, we shall put people first and share results. To put people first is the ruling philosophy of the contemporary Chinese Communists with comrade Xi Jinping as the core, and also the

essence of the BRI. Under the background of the increasingly prominent problem of the unbalanced and inadequate global economic development and the widening gap between the rich and poor, the profound meaning of people's livelihood contained in the BRI has become more prominent. Enhancing people-to-people connectivity requires not only big projects between governments which benefit the country, but also more small projects between social organizations which benefit the people. We shall guide more resources to people's livelihood projects, and focus on solving problems that people care about most and have the most direct impact on their interests, so as to better meet their aspirations for a better life. In planning relevant projects, we shall listen more to the voices of people at the grassroots level, understand their needs, and achieve more visible and tangible results for the people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

Over the past six years, we have laid a solid foundation in the Belt and Road development. Standing at a new historical starting point, we are embracing a broader and better future. Tomorrow, the Second BRF will open, and General Secretary and President Xi Jinping will deliver an important speech. We have reason to believe that, under the joint leadership of leaders in China and countries along the Belt and Road, as long as we uphold the Silk Road spirit of "peaceful cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning, mutual benefit and win-win", make steadfast efforts with firm confidence, we will be able to achieve more fruitful results in the Belt and Road development including people-to-people connectivity, so as to benefit people of all countries along the Belt and Road and the whole world. We look forward to your valuable insights and wisdom during the forum.

Thank you.

Speech by Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of Mozambique and the Mozambique Liberation Front at the Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

Your Excellency Minister Song Tao of the International Department, Central Committee of CPC,

Your Excellency President Aleksandar Vučić of the Republic of Serbia,

Your Excellency State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,

Distinguished guests,

First of all, please allow me to pay tribute to the fraternal Chinese Communist Party under the wise leadership of General Secretary Xi Jinping. I sincerely thank you for your warm hospitality after the delegation of Mozambique arrived in Beijing. I believe that the distinguished guests here have also received the same warm hospitality from the Chinese side.

Our visit to China once again reflects the desire of the Mozambican people to strengthen communication and cultural exchanges with the Chinese people through the great platform of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The African and Chinese people have a long history of living in harmony. The two sides have traded silk, porcelain, gold, jewelry and ivory on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefit. Today, the spirit of Belt and Road has brought these values to life again.

It is these early contacts that built the foundation of cultural exchanges and mutual trust between the two peoples. As early as around 1858, about 30 Chinese settled on the Island of Mozambique, which was still under the colonial rule back then, and became the



earliest Chinese ethnic in Mozambique recorded in history.

Colonialism cannot prevent the Mozambican and Chinese people from coming together. On the contrary, because of the struggle for national independence, freedom and dignity, the two peoples became more united and established a close brotherhood.

Honorable Minister Song Tao,

The theme of the Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity highlights the essence of BRI to promote exchanges and cooperation between people in countries along the Belt and Road, and is a true portrayal of the history of the exchanges between the two peoples.

For some people, BRI proposed by President Xi Jinping has nothing to do with history, but is a strategy to seek economic expansion through infrastructure construction. In fact, BRI only once again puts forward the ancient values of mutual help, peace, openness, inclusiveness, mutual respect and cooperation contained in the ancient Silk Road.

It should be seen as an embodiment of the common aspirations to strengthen the economic and trade cooperation between various countries, regions and peoples of the world.

We have noticed that infrastructure construction is only an integral part of the rich and interrelated connotations of the BRI since its implementation several years ago. It also includes ideas of strengthening the implementation of development strategies, policies and large projects, and advocating for greater trade and financial integration. It provides a platform for people, enterprises and countries to achieve rational development of natural resources and inclusive development through mutual communication and coordination. "Belt and Road" means a more open world.

Mozambique highly appreciates the BRI for putting the people of all countries in the center of making development plans, as well as for the concepts of promoting world harmony and people-to-people connectivity. If it is well understood and implemented, it will certainly create more wealth for the world and free millions of people from the shackles of poverty.

China, which has a history of thousands of years of civilization, has also been brutally invaded by foreign powers in modern times. On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, we would like to congratulate you on your great efforts and revolutionary achievements in the fields of scientific and technological progress, cultural development and talent cultivation. What is even more commendable is that in the face of achievements, you are still deeply aware that the future of the world needs to be shared by all mankind.

Mozambique is ready to join the countries which implement the BRI spirit and strengthen the world's connectivity.

We agree with the idea of "building a community of shared future for mankind" proposed by the Communist Party of China at the 19th National Congress. We believe that vicious competition, protectionism, unilateralism, selfishness, and any claim that undermines cooperation, sharing and coordination in state-to-state exchanges can only create isolated islands of development on the poor sea.

If we let the world develop like this, then there will be more vicious competition, zero-sum game, conflicts, and a large number of disorderly immigrants. In addition, the phenomenon of human trafficking will emerge, natural resources will be developed in an uncontrolled manner, which will provide fertile ground for the breeding of economic, social and political turmoil, threatening all mankind and the earth we live on.

Mozambique is committed to building a bridge of people-to-people connectivity and the road of trade, investment and friendship together with the countries along the Belt and Road, and exchanging experience on culture, knowledge and governance with these countries, so as to realize the sustainable development and improve the well-being of the people.

Taking this opportunity, I also want to congratulate the Chinese people for sticking to the path of Socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. Walking along this path, you will surely fulfill the Chinese dream and create a better life.

Honorable President Aleksandar Vučić,

Honorable State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi,

Honorable Minister Song Tao,

In recent years, we are pleased to see that more and more Chinese cultural centers and research centers for African issues have been established in Africa and China.

In Mozambique, the largest Chinese cultural center project in Africa is under way. The project will play an active role in strengthening cultural and artistic exchanges for all people living in Mozambique, including foreigners living in Mozambique.

We are willing to take the good opportunity to actively exchange ideas with China and the participating countries, and learn from your rich experience in developing and improving people's lives.

I reiterate that Mozambique is willing to continue to strengthen the existing friendly partnership with China, the Chinese Communist Party, the Chinese people and the participating countries.

Thank you!

Speech by Aleksandar Vučić, President of the Republic of Serbia and the Serbian Kadima Party at the Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

I am very pleased to be invited by the International Department, Central Committee of CPC to participate in the Sub-forum on People-to-People Connectivity. An important purpose of my current visit to China is to strengthen the economic, social and cultural exchanges with friends from all countries, promote non-governmental exchanges, and enhance people-to-people connectivity. Non-governmental cooperation is an important part of cooperation between countries, and it is as important as economic and social cooperation. In the meeting just now with President Xi Jinping, we reached an agreement on the continued strengthening of exchanges and cooperation in various fields between the two countries. Compared with China, Serbia is a small country with a population of only 7 million, but it is a country with a relatively large population in its region. We attach great importance to exchanges and cooperation with China in economic, political and social fields. In the future, the two countries should further strengthen non-governmental exchanges under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative,



especially the exchanges between the Serbian Kadima Party and the Chinese Communist Party.

Under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party with General Secretary Xi Jinping as the core, the Chinese people have made remarkable achievements in development, attracting the attention of the whole world. Although facing some economic and political challenges of the West, China's circle of friends in the international community continues to expand. This is because contrary to some big countries, China does not blindly oppress other countries in the engagement with them, but insists that the countries, regardless of size, strength or wealth, should respect and appreciate each other. This has earned China "popularity" in the international community and

has further enhanced the international identity of the Chinese concept.

Serbia is one of the first countries to sign the “Belt and Road” cooperation agreement with China. Today, representatives from all countries come together to further promote our connectivity in infrastructure, communications and other fields. In the past few years, the share of the Serbian public sector in economic development has declined, while China’s public sector and private sector, especially enterprises, have shown great enthusiasm for participation in economic development and played an important role. In the conversation with President Xi, I told him that the Serbian people thank China and love the Chinese people. In the past few years, the number of Chinese tourists visiting Serbia has increased by two to three times, and it is hoped that this number will continue to grow in the future. In the past ten years, the trade volume between the two countries has grown considerably, and more Chinese companies are welcome to invest and cooperate in Serbia.

Serbia is a small country, but China has always respected and supported Serbia, and we are deeply touched. This shows that the two countries are truly strategic partners. I told President Xi that we should promote cooperation between the two countries in a more positive manner. President Xi said that China’s support is not based on economic interests, but on the friendship between the two countries and the two peoples. Serbia is willing to

continue to strengthen its comprehensive strategic partnership with China and continue to support China on international occasions. It is hoped that the two peoples will continue to deepen their understanding and push bilateral relations to continue to develop in the right direction.

The two countries have much room for improvement in terms of cultural exchanges and cooperation. In November this year, the Chinese Cultural Center will be officially completed in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, which will help to further strengthen the understanding of Serbian people on the Chinese culture and Asian culture. We also hope that the Chinese people can learn more about Balkan culture and Serbian culture. In the past six years, cooperation between Serbia and China has continued to develop. The Serbian Kadima Party and the Chinese Communist Party have signed a cooperation agreement. It is hoped that in the future, through inter-party contacts, the two parties and the two countries will further strengthen exchanges and jointly achieve more and greater deeds, and bring more benefits to the two peoples.

We have firm confidence in the cooperation between the two countries and will fulfill the existing commitments. Thanks again to China and the Chinese people for their support to Serbia. I hope to receive President Xi’s visit to Serbia this year. Thanks again to the organizer for its invitation and warm hospitality.

Speech by State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

It is my great honor to attend the Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. We come with sincere friendship to this Forum, which is a platform for discussion and cooperation. Friendship and cooperation are based on mutual understanding and trust. Without understanding and trust, there will be no real friendship and cooperation. For Myanmar, every international conference and forum is an opportunity to strengthen cooperation with the outside world, which helps us to seek common ground with other countries and find common solutions to build a better world together. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to Minister Song Tao for inviting me to attend the Forum, and I would also like to thank the Chinese Communist Party for extending a hand of friendship to the Myanmar Democratic League many years ago, even though the Myanmar Democratic League had not yet



taken power back then. The world today faces many problems such as peace and development. It is essential for international relations that all countries build friendship on the basis of mutual understanding rather than seeking influence and power politics, safeguard common values of humanity such as harmony and happiness, and build the world into a better place that all peoples aspire for.

The biggest challenge facing the world today is how to safeguard common values while promoting the development and progress of mankind, especially the people's right to pursue a

happy life and the friendly relationship between peoples. If we are dissatisfied with and distrust each other, it will be difficult to establish a true global village and live in harmony.

China is a true friend of Myanmar and always stands with us. Just as a proverb says, “A friend in need is a friend indeed”. When we encounter difficulties, China and the Chinese Communist Party always give us necessary help and support in a timely manner. The cooperation between Myanmar and China in the field of Belt and Road construction is an important part of Myanmar-China cooperation. We look forward to raising the friendship between Myanmar and China to a new level through cooperation in related projects.

Myanmar is currently confronted with many difficulties and challenges. I would like to thank all those who understand and trust us, and all the countries that give us valuable support and help in difficult times. We are willing to develop friendly relations with other countries on the basis of mutual respect. We are also expecting that Myanmar’s development and progress will

contribute to the prosperity and development of the world. In this regard, China has set an example for Myanmar. No other country in the world is more diligent than China. The Chinese people have achieved historic development of the country through hard work, and set an example for Myanmar. Myanmar also hopes to achieve national development through diligence and perseverance. Although Myanmar still faces many difficulties on its development path, we are full of confidence. Myanmar is ready to extend a hand of friendship to all countries and looks forward to building more friendly relations with other countries and further strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation. This is the tradition of Myanmar. I would like to thank China for providing us with this important opportunity! We welcome people from all over the world to embrace the diverse cultures and contribute to human development. Once again, I would like to thank Minister Song Tao for providing me with such an opportunity. I wish you all the best and a happy life.

Speech by Cui Shi'an, Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region at the Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

Honorable Heads of State,
Honorable Minister Song Tao,
Honorable Guests and Dear Friends,

In the Belt and Road development, we are committed to building a road of win-win cooperation to achieve common development and prosperity and a road of peace and friendship to strengthen all-round exchanges. As a special administrative region of the central government, Macao has a unique history featuring multicultural coexistence. Tourism cooperation is an integral part of the Belt and Road development. Macao has taken the initiative to seize the great opportunities of the Belt and Road development, deepen cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and enhance people-to-people connectivity. Macao is making every effort to build the tourism and leisure center, so that Macao will become a bond of people-to-people connectivity and an important platform for sincere exchanges between people of countries along the Belt and Road.



The central government supports the Macao Special Administrative Region in accelerating the development of the tourism and leisure center, combining the Belt and Road development with tourism and leisure, making full use of its geographical advantages, building tourism education and training bases, and establishing closer and broader tourism cooperation relations with countries along the Belt and Road.

Macao strives to create a platform for cultural exchanges and promote exchanges and mutual learning between different civilizations and cultures through cultural bases. Macao has a distinctive feature of multiculturalism and a tradition of promoting cultural integration. Macao's philosophy of peace, openness,

inclusiveness, mutual learning, mutual benefit and win-win is a good embodiment of this tradition.

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) is a precious treasure of the Chinese culture. Macau is striving to give play to the role of the TCM industry, promote the modernization, standardization and internationalization of TCM, focus on building science and technology industrial parks of TCM research, and create a solid platform for TCM development. In addition, Macao also provides TCM services for the people in countries along the Belt and Road through cooperation in building TCM research centers.

The relatives of overseas Chinese are a bridge to enhance people-to-people connectivity and cooperation, and also an important source to promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges and cooperation in countries along the Belt and Road. Macao is exerting the advantages

of relatives of returned overseas Chinese, focusing on making full use of their international social network, strengthening cooperation with Southeast Asian countries, and actively participating in China International Import Expo and other major events, so as to contribute to the Belt and Road construction. President Xi Jinping has pointed out that “people-to-people friendship holds the key to good state-to-state relations”. Macau always adheres to the principle of “giving full play to its strength to serve the needs of the country”, and carries forward the Silk Road spirit by taking proactive actions. In addition, it also enhances people-to-people connectivity and friendship in countries and regions along the Belt and Road, improves its role in the national economic development and opening up in the process of participating in the BRI, constantly enriches the connotation of “one country, two systems”, and contributes to the ‘Chinese dream’ of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

A Sketch of Highlight Stories

[Editor's Note] At the Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity, participants and beneficiaries of the Belt and Road related projects came to the scene, and vividly told their own touching stories of people-to-people connectivity in terms of three aspects: the ordinary people's Belt and Road footprint, cultural integration along the Belt and Road and the well-being for local people brought about by the development of the Belt and Road. Let's see what they all said.

"We can see the changes brought to us by the development of the Belt and Road from the schools, hometown and the world painted by children with their brushes." Nongping Primary School is located on the outskirts of Vientiane, the capital of Laos. A few years ago with the support of China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD), the children were able to use a new school building with a total construction area of about 800 square meters. And there were volunteer teachers from China. Now, Nongping Primary School has become one of the most popular schools in Vientiane. This time, the children of Nongping Primary School came to the Thematic Forum in Beijing to present a picture book for President Xi Jinping as a gift. There are 58 pieces of painting drawn by children, symbolizing the 58th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Laos. The immature and fancy brushstrokes reveal their happiness and joy from the heart. On April 29th, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and President Xi Jinping wrote back to all the teachers and students of Nongping Primary School, urging them to be successors to China-Laos friendship. All the teachers and students of the school were encouraged to read President Xi's reply. "Thank you, Grandpa Xi, we will study hard!" Lao students say so.

The 27-year-old French guy who loves martial

arts has a festive Chinese name --- Fu Lu. Fu Lu became fascinated by this unique Chinese culture after studying Kung Fu at martial arts school. For Fu Lu, the charm of Kung Fu is not only between the fists and the feet, but also allows him to understand the philosophy of life such as "Learning is like boating against the water, if you do not advance, you will retreat." Kung Fu is not only the philosophy "mentor" of Fu Lu, but also a "matchmaker". Fu Lu met his Chinese girlfriend because of studying Kung Fu. Now, Fu Lu has opened two martial arts centers in France, so that more people will have the opportunity to experience the charm of Kung Fu.

In 2018, Pan Xiangbin, a Chinese national cardiovascular specialist, traveled to Uzbekistan for medical exchanges and performed surgery on local patients. Among them, a woman who was pregnant for 26 weeks was seriously ill, but she



could not be treated with radiation technology, and it was also difficult for her to bear the risks of traditional traumatic surgery. Pan Xiangbin saved two lives by using his first ultrasound-guided percutaneous intervention technique. Last month, this patient gave birth to a healthy child. She hopes that her child will come to China to study and become a doctor, opening up a green pathway for more lives.

Hu Man, Vice Chairman of the World Federation of Acupuncture and Moxibustion Societies from Iran, initially had doubts about acupuncture and Chinese medicine treatment, but later he discovered the “magic” of acupuncture. A painter with multiple sclerosis, unable to move his hands and feet, not only recovered after a few months of acupuncture treatment, but also picked up the brush to paint. Zed, a young boy from New Mexico, America, who is suffering from autism, refused to communicate with others, but after acupuncture treatment, he said “Mom, I love you!” on the day before Thanksgiving. Now he likes to express himself and play with other children at school. His friends and family say, they now see a completely different child.

The Red Cross Society of China rescues local children with congenital heart disease in Afghanistan; Chinese doctors help pregnant women with heart disease in Uzbekistan; Chinese guys and Indonesian girls wipe out love sparks in the construction of the Babi Balu coal-fired

power station project in Indonesia; Chinese volunteers help Kenyan slum teenagers rekindle hopes of life; Chinese enterprises help Tanzanian residents build the “Bridge of Hearts” to keep local children’s lives.....

There are still many such stories, and such stories happen every day along the Belt and Road.

Over the past six years, the Chinese people has made a total of 100 million trips to countries along the Belt and Road, and a total of 85 million people from countries along the route have visited China; the livelihood project of 60 billion RMB have been landed; Digital TV enters Africa; Brightness Action has been carried out 5,000 times in Southeast Asia; the number of Confucius Institutes grows to 548 in 154 countries, with an audience of 100 million; sports cooperation and exchange events are constantly increasing, and athletes and sports fans from different countries are promoting mutual understanding in the sweat. In the past six years, the projects of cultural integration, educational cooperation, medical support, tourism development, sports exchanges, agricultural trade, and infrastructure construction carried out under the Belt and Road initiative have taken root and blossomed in the countries and regions along the route. From the smiles of the beneficiaries, the world has seen that the Belt and Road is building a bridge of spiritual connectivity for people from different countries of different nationalities.



[Editor's Note] Nongping Village is located on the outskirts of Vientiane, the capital of Laos; and there is a primary school built in 1964. China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD) offered supports to the local government in rebuilding Nongping Primary School in 2011. The year 2013 saw the opening of the new school building, about which the whole village was happy; and the primary school was officially renamed China-Laos Friendly Nongping Primary School. The kids, from then on, receive gifts every year from China. Volunteer teachers from China have also been teaching here since five years ago. Since then, there are two Chinese lessons a week for students at Nongping Primary School from the third grade. Teachers from China often teach them maths, nature, sports and fine arts.

On April 11th, 2019, the teachers and students of Nongping Primary School wrote a letter to Chinese President Xi Jinping, the proponent of the Belt and Road, expressing their sincere gratitude to China for its support in the construction of Nongping Primary School and their will to participate in the construction of the Belt and Road initiative. On April 25, the teachers and students presented their hand-made picture book dedicated to President Xi at the Thematic Forum on people-to-people connectivity. On April 29th, President Xi Jinping wrote back to all the teachers and students of Nongping Primary School, urging them to be successors to China-Laos friendship. All the teachers and students of the school were encouraged to read President Xi's reply. Letters between President Xi Jinping and teachers and students at Nongping Primary School have been closely followed in both countries.



Minister Song Tao receives the picture book on behalf of President Xi Jinping.

A Letter from Teachers and Students of China-Laos Friendly Nongping Village Primary School

April 11th, 2019, in Vientiane
(Translated version)

Dear General Secretary Xi Jinping, President of the Republic of China,

We are teachers and students of China-Laos Friendly Nongping Primary School from Vientiane, the capital of Laos. In a few days, eight of us will go to Beijing, the great capital of China, to tell the story of our Nongping Primary School at the Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. We are excited and

happy at the thought that friends from all over the world will know about our primary school and the bits and pieces of our lives. There are so many feelings in our hearts that we want to share with you and with friends from all over the world.

Nongping Primary School was built in 1964. Today, however, students can only learn about its shabby appearance in the photo, for friends from CFPD worked with us to rebuild the school seven years ago. In the past seven years, China is not



Pictures painted by teachers and students of Nongping Primary School

only a dream but also a warm companion. Every year, Chinese friends come to visit us and bring us a lot of teaching equipment, so as to improve the teaching and learning conditions of the school. In the past six or seven years, six lovely and respectable Chinese volunteer teachers have kept us company day and night and we have formed profound friendship for each other. In contact with Chinese friends, the students not only learned Chinese, but also learned about China's famous mountains and rivers and the vastness of the world, and felt positive, sunshine, respect and friendliness. It makes us understand what makes China, our great neighbor, prosperous and strong, and what makes China put forward the great vision of the Belt and Road. Laos is a landlocked country, and it is the Belt and Road that connects us to the world. The Chinese dream and the Lao dream are connected together through the Belt and Road, and we can join hands to build our beautiful home!

From the news, we know that the party and government of the two countries will jointly promote the building of a community of shared future, further strengthen the foundation of relations between the two parties and the two

countries, and continuously enhance the well-being of the two countries. Now there are more and more cars in Nongping village, the roads become flatter and flatter, the nights brighter and brighter, and people live a richer and happier life. We believe that we will soon be on the train of China-Laos Railway to Beijing.

As witnesses and beneficiaries of the close relationship between the two countries and the construction of the Belt and Road initiative, we sincerely thank you, the proponent of the great vision of the Belt and Road. We have made the paintings of the students in the last two years into a picture book, hoping to show you the changes brought to us by the Belt and Road, through the school, hometown, the world and dreams shown in students' paintings, and share our joy and happiness with you. We really want to say to you in person: Thank you!

We sincerely wish you good health and all the best!

Yours sincerely,

All the teachers and students of China-Laos
Friendly Nongping Primary School

A Letter in Reply from President Xi Jinping

(full text)

April 29th, 2019, in Beijing

Dear teachers and students of China-Laos
Friendly Nongping Primary School,

Thank you for your letter and hand-made
beautiful picture book, from which I can feel your
joy and happiness, your longing for a better life
and your sincere friendship to Chinese people.
And I am moved by your sincerity and yearnings.

From your letter, I get to know that the
construction of the Belt and Road has brought
many positive changes to your school and
hometown, your study and life. It is my initial
intention to put forward the Belt and Road
initiative to help people live a good life through
realizing the common development of countries
along the route. It is an important part of building
a community of shared future to strengthen
cooperation in the field of people's livelihood and
promote cooperation between China and Laos
in the framework of the Belt and Road. It will
make our lives happier through strengthening
cooperation between China and Laos and allow
more people-friendly projects to land. I look
forward to more people-to-people messengers like
CFPD, to cooperate with countries along the Belt
and Road for the benefit of the people. I hope that
the students will study hard and grow up to be the

pillars of the country and become successors to
China-Laos Friendship!

I wish the China-Laos Friendly Nongping Primary
School to be better and better! You are welcome
to Beijing as soon as possible by taking the train
of China-Laos railway.

Yours sincerely,

Xi Jinping



THE SILK ROAD COMMUNITY BUILDING INITIATIVE

At the Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation on April 25, 2019, China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) announced the launching of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative, which was jointly declared by Mr. Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee and other distinguished Chinese and foreign guests. The Silk Road Community Building Initiative encourages NGOs along the Belt and Road to establish 500 pairs of cooperation partnerships and undertake 200 livelihood cooperation projects in developing countries along the Belt and Road in the next two years, which is a major action to promote cooperation among NGOs along the Belt and Road.

The Silk Road Community Building Initiative adheres to the development concept of putting people first and the principle of joint building through wide consultation for the benefit of all and conforms to the common aspiration of people around the world for good life. The purpose of the Initiative is to promote mutual understanding, amity, mutual trust and respect among people, enhance joint efforts in facilitating exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, improve the livelihood of the people and realize people-to-people connectivity of all countries. The Initiative focuses on two areas of work, cultural and people-to-people exchanges and livelihood cooperation, by providing support and assistance to NGOs from various countries in carrying out seminars,

mutual visits and livelihood projects. NGOs from all countries along the Belt and Road are welcome to participate in the Initiative to build the Initiative into a harmonious home to all people along the Belt and Road, a strong bond between NGOs and governments, businesses, media as well as the public and a bridge that connects different civilizations, regions and countries. Through the Initiative, people from all countries can share the outcomes of the Belt and Road Initiative and contribute to the economic and social development of all countries and the building of a community with a shared future for all.

The Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Mongolia

On May 28, CHINA NGO NETWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES (CNIE) and Mongolian Social Democratic Youth League in conjunction with representatives of more than 40 NGOs, think tanks, media and enterprises from China and Mongolia, the Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Mongolia was launched in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Mongolian Prime Minister Huzler Sukh sent a congratulatory letter to the launching ceremony. He said that it is the common wish of both sides to promote the Belt and Road Initiative to link with Mongolia's "development road" and realize the common development and prosperity of Mongolia and China. Wang Yajun, Vice Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, Amar Bayasgaren, General Secretary

of the Mongolian People's Party, Xing Haiming, Chinese Ambassador to Mongolia, attended the launching ceremony as well as the signing ceremony of the people-to-people exchanges and cooperation projects and the launching ceremony of the people's livelihood cooperation projects. Non-governmental organizations from China and Mongolia attended the meeting and reached a wide range of cooperation consensus and outcome in education, medical care, science and technology, environmental protection, culture, vocational skills training, community development and other fields. Eleven documents on livelihood cooperation projects including the construction of children's clinics, donation of "love parcels" and solar lighting for household use were signed and a donation ceremony was held.

The Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Bangladesh

On June 16, the launching ceremony of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Bangladesh was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and President of Chinese Association for International Understanding, Zhang Zuo, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Fazler Rabbi Mia, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Bangladesh, Dilip Barua, Chairman of the Bangladesh - China Silk Road Forum and representatives from Chinese-funded enterprises, all together 120 people, attended the launching ceremony. Fazler Rabbi Mia said, Bangladesh attaches great importance to and is actively involved in the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative and hope to cooperate extensively with China in various fields such as economics, culture, government exchanges and non-governmental exchanges within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. Ji Bingxuan said that we should take the launching

ceremony as an opportunity to carry out extensive non-governmental exchanges, promote people's livelihood cooperation, so that our two peoples can promote the common cause of people-to-people connectivity, share the outcomes of people-to-people exchanges and help to consolidate the social and public foundation of China-Bangladesh friendship.

The Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Indonesia

On June 21, the launching ceremony of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Indonesia was held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and President of Chinese Association for International Understanding and Sandorno, Vice President of Council of Local Representatives of Indonesia unveiled the launching ceremony of the event. Xiao Qian, Chinese Ambassador to Indonesia, Dino, Chairman of the Indonesian Foreign Policy Association, former Deputy Foreign Minister, participated in the launching ceremony. After the unveiling ceremony, a Chinese-Indonesian NGO exchanges meeting was held. Nearly 50 NGOs from China and Indonesia attended the meeting and reached wide cooperation consensus in strengthening people-to-people exchanges and livelihood cooperation.

Currently, the implementation of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative is seriously planned and arranged, and will be steadily progressed to meet the expectation.

[Editor's Note] From April 27 to 28, 2019, the Second Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network Forum held by the Secretariat (housed in China NGO Network for International Exchanges-CNIE) of Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network (SIRONET) was staged in Beijing. At the forum, some 170 NGO representatives from 22 countries and regions made deep-going discussions around the theme “Shared Commitment to Practical Cooperation and Better Future”. Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of Central Committee of CPC, delivered a keynote speech; Wang Yajun, Vice-Minister of the International Department of Central Committee of CPC and President of International Steering Committee of SIRONET, made a work report; Ali Mahmoud, former Foreign Minister of Egypt, Thapa, Minister of Women, Children and Old People Affairs of Nepal, Imanaliev, President of Silk Road Foundation of Kyrgyzstan and Zhao Wenzhi, Vice President of CNIE addressed the forum on related themes respectively. SIRONET was launched by CNIE and was established in November 2017. Till now, 310 NGOs (among which 137 were headquartered in China and 173 were headquartered in foreign countries) from 69 countries have joined SIRONET. SIRONET has become an important platform for Silk Road NGOs contributing to the Belt and Road initiative. With the joint efforts of SIRONET members, the Silk Road spirit featuring “peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit” has been spread to a much wider range.



Keynote Speech by Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of Central Committee of CPC at the Opening Ceremony of the Second Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network Forum

Respected representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

It's a great pleasure to meet you in Beijing at the Second Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network (SIRONET) Forum. First, I'd like to extend our warm welcome to all our guests.

In his speech at the Opening Ceremony of the First Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, President Xi Jinping called for the establishment of SIRONET and in November 2017. When SIRONET announced its establishment and staged its first Forum, President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter. Yesterday, at the opening ceremony of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, President Xi Jinping delivered an important address, emphasizing that “we should adhere to people-centered development, focus on eliminating poverty, promoting employment and improving people’s livelihood, in an effort to make the achievements of the Belt and Road better benefit all people and make real contribution to the development of local economy and society”. The speech of President Xi Jinping pointed out the direction for us to promote Belt and Road people-to-people connectivity, enhance the development of SIRONET and cooperation among its members.

First, we should adhere to the development philosophy of mutual consultation, and promote mutual understanding in the process of Belt and Road development. Combining the development of China with the development of countries in this area, and



combining the Chinese dream with dreams of people living in countries in this area, the Belt and Road Initiative calls for the wide and active participation of people of all walks in this area, especially the understanding and support from the public. As the platform of communication for NGOs of all countries in this area, SIRONET plays a constructive role for all countries in terms of understanding the Belt and Road initiative, pairing up cooperation projects and exchanging development experience. In the future, SIRONET should, by strengthening friendly exchanges and dialogue between the peoples, work to strengthen its role of contacting the people and enhancing understanding as well as promoting the

development of friendship and affinity between people of different countries, and further promote acknowledgement and understanding of countries and people in this area on the development objectives and concepts of the Belt and Road, thus striving to create a good environment in which economic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges could support and benefit each other.

Second, we should work hand-in-hand to make SIRONET a high-level platform for people-to-people connectivity. SIRONET is rooted from the understanding and recognition of NGOs and people in this area, and the development of SIRONET calls for member organizations striving together towards the same goal. Currently, with the Belt and Road Initiative stepping into a new phase of high quality development, SIRONET could, by playing fundamental, antecedent and long-term roles, provide more substantial and profound momentum for the Belt and Road Initiative to develop steadily, sustainably and solidly. SIRONET should strive to improve fundamental work and mechanism. Its members should form the maximum synergy by giving full play to their respective advantages and strengthening coordination, improve the centripetal force and influence of SIRONET, thus building a cooperation pattern of great synergy.

Third, we should adhere to the principle of sharing development achievements so as to improve the sense of gain of people of all countries. Though the Belt and Road Initiative is rooted in China, the opportunities and achievements brought by it belong to the whole world. Under the framework of the SIRONET, we have carried out beneficial exploration in terms of project development related with people's livelihood, capacity building and professional resources exchanges. In the future, we should help more ordinary people benefit from the Belt and Road, and work to create a sound investment environment and friendly atmosphere of public opinion for large scale project cooperation under the framework of the Belt and Road. SIRONET members are expected to actively take part in the "Silk Road Community Building" action plan, and jointly create a more open, inclusive and mutually beneficial cooperative pattern, thus further strengthening the bond of common

interests connecting people of all countries.

Fourth, we should persist in sharing "Silk Road stories" and further promote exchanges and mutual learning. With the continuous advancement of the Belt and Road Initiative, exchanges among people of all countries in this area become more and more frequent and cooperation among them has been expanding. Traditional friendship and cooperation among countries in this area continue to develop. Activities such as cultural festival, art festival, film festival, cultural relic exhibition and book fair promoting culture of different countries shine together, and brand programs such as "Brightness Action", "Overseas Spring Festival", "China-Europe Block Train" and "the Story of Time" are becoming more and more well-known among people of all countries in this area. Members of SIRONET are expected to become finders, tellers and disseminators of "Silk Road stories"-via SIRONET to convey real feelings, enhance mutual understanding, share latest achievements of cooperation among countries in terms of science, technology, education, culture, health care, tourism and archaeology, and illustrate the Silk Road spirit featuring "peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit" with vivid stories.

The Second Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network Forum further draws consensus on cooperation and plans development blueprint for the Belt and Road construction. The development of SIRONET is facing new opportunities. We believe that under the concerted efforts of SIRONET members and all-out support of people of all countries, people-to-people connectivity and cooperation under the framework of SIRONET is bound to continuously improve quality and achieve more fruitful results, thus making more contribution from the people to the high quality development of Belt and Road and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Thank you.

(Translated by Ma Jiatai)

Report by Wang Yajun, Vice Minister of the International Department of Central Committee of CPC and President of the International Steering Committee of SIRONET, at the Opening Ceremony of the 2nd Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network Forum

Minister Song Tao,
Respected representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,

With the theme of “A Shared Commitment to Practical Cooperation and Better Future”, we gather in Beijing again to stage the Second Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network (SIRONET) Forum. First, I’d like to, on behalf of China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), express our warm welcome to you for attending this forum. I’d also like to, on behalf of Chinese members of SIRONET, extend our sincere respect and appreciation to representatives of SIRONET member organizations of all countries and all foreign guests for your continuous support and participation in the development of SIRONET.

It’s of special importance and significance that we stage the Second SIRONET Forum during the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF). Via the Second SIRONET Forum, we will not only thoroughly summarize our achievements in the past two years, but also carry forward the spirit of BRF by developing the SIRONET, implementing the decisions made on the BRF and bringing more benefits to people of all countries along the Belt and Road.

Two years ago, in order to further strengthen

people-to-people exchanges and cooperation along the Belt and Road, gather the force of people in building the Belt and Road, actively responding to the proposal of President Xi Jinping, we launched and established SIRONET. Till now, the number of members of SIRONET has reached 310, covering nearly 70 countries and regions along the Belt and Road. Under the all-out support and active participation of NGOs of all countries, the scale of SIRONET has been expanding with increasingly prominent achievements. SIRONET has become an important platform for NGOs promoting the Belt and Road development, as well as an important mechanism of people-to-people bonds under the framework of the Belt and Road.

First, SIRONET converges international consensus and adds momentum to the Belt and Road development. SIRONET was established for the purpose of promoting the Belt and Road from the aspect of civil society and develops with the advancement of Belt and Road development. Since its founding, SIRONET has played an important role in terms of promoting NGO exchanges and cooperation, enhancing people-to-people bonds in the Belt and Road areas, and has got more recognition from the international civil society for the Belt and Road Initiative. As the launching organization of SIRONET, by gathering the wisdom and force of SIRONET

member organizations, CNIE has staged the First Shanghai Cooperation Organization People's Forum and the 5th Africa-China People's Forum, inviting statesmen and representatives of NGOs, think tanks and entrepreneurs from countries along the Belt and Road to make thorough exchanges and field investigation in China on Belt and Road related themes, thus further building consensus and public support for the advancement of Belt and Road development and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Second, SIRONET promotes practical cooperation and injects vitality to people-to-people bonds. In the past two years, by strengthening cooperation in terms of poverty reduction, education, health care, security and youth exchanges, SIRONET members have carried out more than 200 exchange activities and projects connected with people's livelihood in countries along the Belt and Road. Via the platform offered by SIRONET, many social organizations have made great achievements by seeking cooperative partners and innovating cooperative models. In 2018, dozens of SIRONET member organizations headquartered in China "went abroad" together and carried out public projects in Cambodia and Nepal with local NGOs. With a contracted amount of six million US dollars, such cooperation raised great attention from all walks of life in these two countries, turning out to be vivid practice of NGO exchanges and cooperation under the framework of SIRONET.

Third, in cooperation with global partners, SIRONET has been improving its international influence. With the development of SIRONET, its influence has been improving and a number of leading members have played an outstanding exemplary role. A number of large-scale pivotal organizations along the Belt and Road vied in joining SIRONET, leading other social organizations in countries or regions in carrying out activities. Some organizations even established branches for SIRONET in their local areas, so as to better publicize the Belt and Road Initiative

and promote people-to-people exchanges and cooperation. The development of SIRONET not only wins acknowledgement from people of the Belt and Road nations, but also enjoys support and participation from elites of various fields such as politics, economy and society.

With the concerted efforts of SIRONET members, the cooperative principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits is fully implemented, and the Silk Road spirit featuring "peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit" gets spread in a much wider range.

Yesterday, in his address at the opening ceremony of the 2nd BRF, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed to "build bridges of mutual learning connecting different civilizations", "form a multi-interactive people-to-people exchanges pattern", "encourage and support social organizations along the Belt and Road extensively, and carry out cooperation in areas related with people's livelihood". In order to implement the guidelines outlined in the address of President Xi Jinping, we should, by further promoting the development of SIRONET, spark the enthusiasm and vitality of its members, broaden areas of cooperation, and create brand programs, thus bringing more real benefits to people of all countries along the Belt and Road.

First, we should promote the development of SIRONET by improving its mechanisms. Over the past two years, exchange and cooperation among members of SIRONET has been strengthening with their partnership becoming more and more entrenched. By establishing conference mechanisms such as conference of International Steering Committee, regional thematic conference, thematic meeting on cooperation among different regions, as well as information sharing mechanism such as database of member activities and cooperate to contact with websites, we could offer guidance and point out directions for member organizations to strengthen cooperation, further

spark the enthusiasm and vitality of member organizations, and promote institutional and regular exchanges and cooperation among member organizations of SIRONET.

Second, by adhering to the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, we should strive to establish partnership relations among NGOs. NGOs are important forces in promoting social and economic development, participating in international cooperation and global governance, as well as an important contributor in the Belt and Road development. We should, based on the practice of SIRONET, and by adhering to the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution, shared benefits, mutual respect, mutual learning and win-win cooperation, build a sound Belt and Road NGO partnership featuring equal, mutual benefit and people-friendly, thus jointly promoting the Belt and Road construction.

Third, focusing on the event of “Silk Road Community Building Initiative”, we should pursue inclusive development for all. Responding to the initiative of CNIE, SIRONET will carry out the event of “Silk Road Community Building Initiative” in the next two years, which aims to establish 500 NGO partnerships and launch 200 cooperative projects in the field of people’s livelihood in countries along the routes of the Belt and Road. “Silk Road Community Building Initiative” not only calls for the support from SIRONET member organizations of both China and abroad, but also needs these organizations to gain active support from and forge close cooperation among more organizations of its kind. SIRONET member organizations are expected to make the most of their own advantages and characteristics, work actively to implement more cooperative projects in the fields related with people’s livelihood, thus promoting the development achievements shared by the people and continuously improving the sense of participation, acquisition and happiness among people of countries along the Belt and Road.

Fourth, carrying forward the spirit of the Silk Road, we should strive to develop SIRONET into an important platform of agglomerating consensus and power. Currently, with the rise of protectionism and unilateralism, the desire of promoting multilateralism and realizing inclusive and win-win development among people of all countries has become all the more prominent, and the Silk Road spirit featuring “peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit” has become all the more precious. With the features of highly professional and rooted from the people, as well as the advantages of serving people and connecting all walks of society, NGOs should, with the aid of SIRONET, strive to reflect the voice and willingness of people, tell “Silk Road stories”, carry forward “Silk Road spirit”, win support from all walks of society, thus building consensus, gathering resources and winning support from the public for the Belt and Road initiative.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

President Xi Jinping points out that the Belt and Road construction has entered into a new phase of taking roots, blossoming and bearing fruits. The development of SIRONET will also enter into a new stage. Under the new circumstances, NGOs along the Belt and Road are expected to work together to promote the long-term and sustainable development of SIRONET by innovating cooperative mechanism, broadening cooperative domains, and diversifying cooperative content, thus making achievements of cooperation benefit people of all countries along the Belt and Road and creating a happier and better life for people of all countries.

Thank you.

(Translated by Ma Jiatai)

Address by Ali Mahmoud, former Foreign Minister of Egypt at the Opening Ceremony of the Second SIRONET Forum

(April 28, 2019 Beijing)

Honorable Mr, Song Tao, Minister of the International Department, CPC Central Committee,
Honorable Mr. Wang Yajun, Chairman of SIRONET International Steering Committee,
Honorable Mme Tham Maya Thapa, Minister of Women, Children and Senior Citizen and Chairperson of Social Welfare Council, Nepal,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was a dream and quickly turned into reality. Five years only have passed since the launch in 2013 of the Belt and Road Initiative, and yet BRI has succeeded in transforming the world economic order and laid the ground for a different, brighter, more vibrant and more energetic world economy based on enhanced multilateralism. With around 80 nations that signed for the membership, and around 120 nations that signed deals related to BRI with many mechanisms that have been swiftly created, in particular, the Silk Road Fund and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

that provided BRI with the needed financial tools allowing for the speedy implementation of a new world vision, BRI has cemented its place in world affairs. The main initiative mushroomed and turned into many initiatives as it has succeeded in interconnecting governments, business communities, academies, customs ports, NGOs and others more. At the very beginning, it was an enigma that raised many questions, and even terror and doubts. Some international media and renowned research and studies centers objectively assess the Initiative. Today we witness the presence of thousands of participants at the second BRI Forum, with almost 40 leaders and around 100 CEOs, the heads of international financial institutions, and G7 members. It became obvious that BRI gained credibility and trust and that it is here to stay and it is going to remain and shape up the world economy for the 21st century bringing new impetus and new features to a globalization that will better interconnect the nations.

The remarks of President Xi Jinping at the opening of the Second BRI Forum and the additional measures he announced showed his genuine, wise and transparent approach. What he demonstrated from the very first day he launched his Initiative made us all more optimistic as well as more ambitious about the benefits each and every of our nations can achieve out of this initiative.

China possesses the intellectual property of the Belt and Road Initiative, and yet the initiative became our Initiative, and it is our role and responsibility to make of it a real and more sound, unshakable and solid future world order. We need all, in coordination with China, and through our inputs and proposals to make it an even better scheme for our nations and future generations, and strive together to find solutions to whatever obstacles and problems we might encounter while moving forward and while we are progressing.

In Africa we are among the first to have sensed the genuineness of BRI, in particular, the fact that it is based on the principle of win-win cooperation. China has so far invested a lot in infrastructure projects which constitute the priorities in our continent as we need to integrate, to enhance our intra-African trade, to implement the March 2018 Agreement on the Establishment of a Free Trade Zone. To establish the African Common Market and to achieve our vision and plan for 2063, we know that we can count on China as one of our main partners in the continent, a strategic partner, and also through trilateral cooperation that links Africa, China and other partners. Africa and China can do it and will together do it.

In November 2017 we held in Beijing our first SIRONET Forum and today, and after a year and a half, we are here again to discuss about our future cooperation as NGOs. I am certain that through our deliberations and exchange of views, tomorrow we will give a momentum to our network activities, and together we can work on any challenges we were faced with during the last period. Together we can examine the profitability of holding with the assistance of China the NGOs regional meetings as one of the means how to move forward.

Having said so I wish before concluding and on behalf of all of us here, to address a sincere congratulations message to the honorable leader Xi Jinping for the success of the second BRI Forum, and to the government and people of China for their strive under the wise leadership of Xi Jinping to make BRI a healthier, sounder and equally profitable world scheme that will make our world a better place, and make our world economy a more vibrant, just and equally beneficial one.

I wish as well to thank China NGO Network for International Exchanges and in particular its capable President for having offered us that wonderful opportunity to meet again in Beijing and for the warm reception and the gracious hospitality that we received upon our arrival, a matter that characterizes the genuine friendly people of China.

Thank you for your attention.

Address by Tham Maya Thapa, Chairperson of Social Welfare Council, Nepal at the Opening Ceremony of the 2nd Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network Forum

I would like to express my appreciation to China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) for inviting me to attend the 2nd Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network Forum. Two days ago, I had the privilege to attend the opening ceremony of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) and listen to the keynote speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping, which furthers my understanding of the Belt and Road Initiative. Being part of the Thematic Forum on People-to-people Connectivity of the BRF offers me a good learning opportunity.

In Nepal, NGOs are administered by the Social Welfare Council, of which I am the Chairperson. I, therefore, am very concerned with the people living below poverty line and their needs for education, employment and health in particular. Countries along the Belt and Road face similar issues such as uneven economic development, rising inequality, environmental deterioration, global warming, rapid urbanization and gender inequality. Cooperation among the Belt and Road countries should be enhanced to better address these issues and improve people's lives. Many initiatives put forth at the 2nd BRF will contribute to improving the wellbeing of people and are thus highly relevant.

Being an integral part of the Belt and Road Initiative, people-to-people connectivity can help address many social issues relating to people's livelihood in countries along the Belt and Road. The Thematic Forum on People-to-people Connectivity of the BRF is a milestone event. During the session,

CNIE launched the Silk Road Community Building Initiative, which sets the goals of building 500 cooperative partnerships with NGOs along the Belt and Road and implementing 200 livelihood projects in developing countries along the Belt and Road in the next two years. It is our hope that in implementing the projects, China and CNIE will continue to respect the social-economic development conditions of different countries, promote sustainable development and help improve local governance. It is my conviction that this Initiative will further strengthen cooperation and improve people-to-people connectivity. The Nepali side stands ready to further cooperate with the Chinese side for smooth implementation of relevant projects.

With regard to NGOs, we need to build more network platforms and cooperative partnerships based on respect for countries' national conditions and natural landscape, including agriculture and tourism, to avoid harming the environment or accelerating global warming. We should also step up management of NGOs, support their capacity building and further promote sustainable cooperation between NGOs among the Belt and Road countries.

To conclude, once again, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to Minister Song Tao, Vice Minister Wang Yajun and the CNIE. Let us work in concert to strengthen people-to-people connectivity along the Belt and Road!

(Translated by Jin Yan)

Address by Mr. Imanaliev, President of Kyrgyzstan Silk Road Foundation at the Closing Ceremony of the Second Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network Forum

Please allow me to begin by expressing my deep gratitude for the splendid organization and thoughtful arrangement by Chinese friends. I am left with fresh and deep impressions every time I visit China, even with those familiar places. It is evident for me that China is undergoing continuous development in economic, social and cultural fields, and is increasingly becoming a positive force of global significance in the international political and economic arena.

The Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, which was held in Beijing a few days ago, further clarified new ideas and directions for the Belt and Road Initiative put forward by President Xi Jinping, and promoted the Initiative to deliver more benefits for participating countries and relevant international organizations. The Initiative is welcomed in places across the world and achieved plentiful results in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. The Initiative, stretching over Asia and Europe, has become a new impetus for world economic development.

The Belt and Road Initiative has three prominent characteristics which are most impressive: first, the Initiative considers not only China's, but all participating countries' interests, as the principle of "joint contribution" is emphasized. Second, China's role in the Initiative is not a leader, but an equal participator. Third, the Initiative has influenced the global economy positively.

I believe, the historical mission of the Belt and Road Initiative does not only lie in promotion of

economic, infrastructure, financial and investment development, as well as understanding and friendship between peoples of participating countries, but more importantly, it ushers in a comprehensive and long-term historical process that helps to maintain peace and promote common development. The idea of advocating common development and prosperity among different cultures and civilizations is not only innovative, but also operational, covering a series of projects of practical cooperation. Implementation of these projects has drawn extensive attention from various state leaders, social activists, diplomats, experts and scholars all over the world.

The structure of the Belt and Road Initiative has provided more possibilities for inland countries. Central Asian countries have gained access to the sea through China. The Initiative also contributes to infrastructure construction in participating countries and improves people's life, which are quite visible results. Just as the Russian President and other leaders of Eurasia Economic Union (EEU) said, the Belt and Road, by connecting with EEU, opens up a passage for them to Chinese and European market.

The convening of this Forum is doubtlessly contributing to mutual-trust and friendship between countries and peoples, and to a certain extent, promotes coordination and cooperation under the Belt and Road framework. I look forward to a continuously growing Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network, which can play a more positive role in boosting cooperation and friendship between participating countries and peoples.

Conclusion Remarks by Mme. Zhao Wenzhi, Vice-President of China NGO Network for International Exchanges at the Second Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network Forum

Respected representatives,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon!

It is my honor and pleasure to meet you at the Second Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network Forum and deliver a summary report on behalf of China NGO Network for International Exchanges.

President Xi Jinping fully acknowledges fruitful results achieved by the Belt and Road Initiative at the opening ceremony of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF). A large number of cooperation projects have been launched, and the decisions of the first BRF have been smoothly implemented. More than 150 countries and international organizations have signed agreements on Belt and Road cooperation with China. The Belt and Road cooperation has opened up new space for global economic growth, produced new platforms for international trade and investment and offered new ways for improving global economic governance. The Initiative has helped to improve people's lives in countries involved and created more opportunities for common prosperity. At the Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity of the Second BRF, representatives from 61 governments, enterprises, social and international organizations demonstrated rich results they have achieved in Belt and Road Initiative, which won acknowledgement from various participating countries.

As Minister Song Tao of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee said at the opening ceremony yesterday, the Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network, as one of the important outcomes of the first BRF, has witnessed

smooth development and constant growth since its founding two years ago. The Network now has 310 members from nearly 70 countries and regions. He also said the Network is expected to become a discoverer, teller and spreader of “silk road stories” so that people-to-people exchanges and cooperation under the framework of the Network could become higher-quality, efficient and fruitful.

Over the past two days, some 130 representatives from about 20 countries carried out sufficient discussion and exchanges on topics such as “promoting people-to-people connectivity through social partnership”, “promoting regional security and development through non-governmental cooperation”, and “promoting social development through people-to-people cooperation”. Your active participation and contribution has laid sound foundation for the success of the forum. I would like to express my gratitude for your acknowledgement of the positive role played by the Network in promoting people-to-people connectivity and the fruitful results attained in this process. This Forum, which has reached expected effects, will be conducive to NGOs’ efforts to further promote practical cooperation and strengthen people’s bonds. By doing so, it highly echoes the Forum theme of “Deepening Practical Cooperation, Jointly Creating Better Life”.

I would like to summarize our consensus on how to build the Network in order to deepen people-to-people exchanges and cooperation as follows:

First, let us work together to make the Network a platform of building consensus and gathering public will. Following the principle of joint consultation, the Belt and Road needs active participation of various sectors in all countries as

well as understanding and support from the public. To go far, we need to walk together, therefore we should continue to abide by the principle of achieving shared growth through consultation and collaboration, strengthen people-to-people friendly exchanges and dialogue, communicate to find common ground in ideas so as to forge maximum synergy. We should facilitate participating countries and their peoples to identify with development goals of the Belt and Road, cultivate friendship and emotions between peoples, so as to pool international consensus for building a community with shared future for mankind.

Second, let us work together to make the Network a platform to facilitate people-to-people connectivity. The Belt and Road Initiative is a platform to build a community with shared future for mankind. Therefore, efforts should be made to facilitate high-quality development of the Belt and Road, especially improving people-to-people connectivity. People can go further if they are kindred spirit and nearer if they are of one mind. People-to-people connectivity is the most profound, long-lasting and fundamental connectivity. We shall participate in the Network with more active attitude, strengthen the platform, improve mechanisms and guarantee measures, with a view to building bridges to connect people's heart, paving roads to facilitate peoples' amicability.

Third, let us work together to make the Network a platform continuously promoting exchanges and mutual-learning between civilizations. Civilizations become more colorful and enriched through exchanges and mutual-learning. As the Belt and Road Initiative achieves continuous progress, peoples of participating countries enjoy increasingly frequent exchanges. We shall spread genuine amicability through the Network, share newest results of people-to-people cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture, sports, tourism, health and archeology, and tell vivid stories of Silk Road spirit so as to create a pattern of mutual-appreciation, mutual understanding and mutual respect among peoples of participating countries.

Fourth, let us work together to make the Network a practical platform that continuously benefit people of all countries. To promote high-quality development of the "Belt and Road Initiative", our network must be people-centered, focusing

on poverty eradication, employment creation and improvement of people's livelihood by promoting international people-to-people cooperation. The Silk Road Community Building Initiative, which aims to promoting people-to-people cooperation by social organizations has been launched. It includes establishment of 500 partnerships and 200 projects improving people's lives. We shall build more projects through bilateral and multilateral cooperation to benefit people of countries participating in Belt and Road Initiative, to make concrete contribution to local economic and social development so that more people can enjoy the fruits of Belt and Road cooperation.

Dear guests, friends,

The Belt and Road has turned from a general plan to a refined blueprint, out of the realistic need of world economic recovery and inclusive growth. The Network was established for the purpose of enabling the civil society to promote the Belt and Road Initiative, and it has grown with the Initiative. The past two years have seen our ideas turn into actions, and visions turn into reality. It has been proved that the Network becomes a new platform strengthening people-to-people exchanges, cooperation and bonds. Therefore, it has laid a sound foundation for sustainable and high-quality development of economic and social development in relevant countries.

Friendship, which derives from close contact between the peoples, holds the key to sound state-to-state relations. We hope NGO representatives from various countries take this Forum as an opportunity, bear in mind the objective of promoting people-to-people practical cooperation and strengthening their bond, and bring the outcomes of the Forum home so that they could take root, sprout, blossom and bear fruits, to make new contribution to mutual development of countries, to international cooperation and global governance, and to the creation of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all for your attendance and sincerely wish the Second Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network Forum a complete success and be ever more successful in the future. I look forward to meeting you in two years.

Thank you.

NGO Cooperation Boosts Development along the Belt and Road: Side Notes at the 2nd Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network Forum

Ren Jiahui

“Whenever I come to China, I feel very happy. China is just like my second hometown.”

Joseph Kahama, Secretary General of the Tanzania-China Friendship Association, expressed his love for China in the interview. This was his second visit to China to attend the Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network Forum.

Held by China NGO Network for International Exchange (CNIE), the Second Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network Forum kicked off on April 27 in Beijing. More than 170 delegates of NGOs from 22 countries and regions attended the Forum and had in-depth discussion under the theme of “Deepen Pragmatic Cooperation and Create a Better Life”.

Countries along the Silk Road work together as a family to commonly promote livelihood development

“Capacity building, solar power, health care, classrooms, text books, healthy drinking water...”

Kahama couldn't stop once he started to talk about things offered by Chinese NGOs to Tanzania. In his view, China's NGOs have sincerely cooperated with Africa and made great contributions to Africa's development.

At the opening ceremony of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, President Xi Jinping proposed that we should encourage and support NGOs along the Silk Road to carry out extensive cooperation on people's livelihood.

President Xi is always concerned about common development and people-to-people connectivity. As early as in November, 2017, when the First Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network Forum was held, President Xi said in his congratulatory letter that the delegates were expected to jointly discuss how to further promote people-to-people connectivity so as to make contributions to deepening the mutual understanding and friendship among people of different countries, promoting common development and helping build a community of shared future for mankind.

Over a year later, what kind of achievements has SIRONET obtained?

According to Wang Yajun, Vice Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, advisor to CNIE, and Chairman of the International Steering Committee of the Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network (SIRONET), members of the cooperation network have so far carried out over 200 exchanges and livelihood projects in countries along the Belt and Road. In 2018, dozens of Chinese members of SIRONET “went out” to Cambodia and Nepal and cooperated with local NGOs livelihood on project, signing contracts for a total of US\$6 million. As for the future development, Wang said that under the initiative of CNIE, the network will launch the building of “Silk Road Community” in the next two years, and focus on the establishment of 500 partnerships between NGOs and carry out 200 cooperation livelihood projects in

countries along the Belt and Road.

With the deepening of friendship, more and more new friends join us

Journalists noticed that during the Forum, many foreign representatives wore a badge composed of the national flag of their own country and that of China on their clothes.

This tiny badge reflects great friendships.

Mahmoud Ally, Egypt's former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Ambassador to China said in the opening ceremony speech, "I wish China smooth progress in all its undertakings, on which Egypt will firmly support China."

Bolat Ussenov, Deputy Director of China Studies Center of Republic of Kazakhstan, quoted a Kazakhstan proverb "Those who do not know history will never have a future" to propose the importance of strengthening the history education of friendly exchanges between China and Kazakhstan.

"We want to hear the voice of China and learn how to deepen our friendship," said Kahama and he mentioned in the interview that he even called himself "African brother".

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While the existing friendships are deepened, "the circle of friends" is also expanding.

Wang Yajun added that up to now, the SIRONET has 310 members, covering 69 countries. With the strong support and active participation of NGOs from countries along the Silk Road, the scale of cooperation network has been expanding and the results have become increasingly prominent. It has become an important platform for non-governmental organizations in those countries to actively promote the development of "Belt and Road".

Applaud the benefits brought by the Belt and Road to the world

In the Thematic Forum held on April 28, Eric Orina, the Director of the International Department of Kenya National Council of NGOs, said, "We are now looking more to the east, especially seeking help

from China. As China is now building the Belt and Road, Kenya NGOs want to be actively involved."

Many foreign delegates gave their "thumbs-up" to China during the forum.

"South Africa admires China for its rapid economic growth over the past few decades, especially for lifting so many people out of poverty, which is a remarkable achievement," said Riska Koopman, official of the South Africa Economic Equity Network.

"With the fast development of China's economy, more and more Chinese tourists come to Myanmar, boosting our economic development," said San San Htwe, Executive Director of Myanmar-China Exchange and Cooperation Association. Growing up on the China-Myanmar border, Chen went through wars and now she experiences the peaceful development brought by the "Belt and Road".

"I highly appreciate China's Belt and Road Initiative, which benefits both China and the whole world," said Vongkham Saensathid, Deputy Secretary General of Lao Committee for Peace and Solidarity in the interview. He also expressed his gratitude to the Chinese government and the CNIE for their great assistance to Laos.

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"The Belt and Road Initiative comes from China, but the opportunity and achievement it brings belong to the world," Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee said in the keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Forum. Strengthening Belt and Road international cooperation has provided a new stage and injected new impetus to maintaining world peace and promoting common development.

It is not hard to imagine that as exchanges and cooperation continue to be deepened, the Belt and Road Initiative will attract more partners and make greater achievements. After all, as written in an ancient Chinese poem: Thick mountains could not stop the river from flowing into the sea.

Visit of Joint Study Group of Silk Road NGO to China

At the invitation of China NGO Network for International Exchanges (hereinafter referred to CNIE), a joint study group of Silk Road NGO visited China from April 22 to May 1 and attended the Second Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network Forum.

During the stay in Beijing, Vice president of CNIE and former Vice-Minister of the International Department, Central Committee of CPC Xu Lvping, and Vice President of CNIE and former Assistant Minister of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Dou Enyong met with the delegation. Secretary-General of CNIE Yuan Zhibing and Deputy Secretary-General of CNIE Liu Kaiyang presided over the panel discussion. Beijing Municipal Civil Affairs Bureau introduced the relevant practices of the government departments to support the development of social organizations. The foreign guests visited the Beijing Social Organization Development Service Center and visited the Tangjialing New Town in the Xibeiwang Town of Haidian District. In addition, the delegation also visited Lanzhou City, Gansu Province and Shanghai City, and held discussions with local social organizations.

I Highly praised the “Belt and Road” Initiative

Assylbek Kozhakhmetov, Chairman of the Kazakhstan Citizens Union, said that as a friendly neighbor, the exchanges and cooperation of Kazakhstan and China will be getting more frequent through the "Belt and Road" Initiative. Through the “Belt and Road” Initiative, people and social organizations along the line will be closely united to meet various challenges.

Boris Guseletov, a researcher at the European Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, said that the development of the “Belt and Road” fully respects the right of each country to choose its own development path. It is an important way to promote international multilateralism and promote multi-polarization in the world. The most fundamental task of the people's heart is to eliminate poverty, fight against crime, and improve people's living standards. China has many pragmatic measures in terms of people's hearts and minds. It not only provides "hard support" such as funds, but also contributes to "soft support" such as development concepts.

Erlan Tologonov, a researcher at the National Strategy Institute of Kyrgyzstan, said that at present, religious extremism, national separatism and international terrorism pose a threat to Central Asian countries and the “Belt and Road”. All countries should adhere to security cooperation and jointly secure construction of the “Belt and Road”.

Joseph K. Kahama, the Secretary-General of the Tanzania-China Friendship Association, said that the “Belt and Road” has been widely welcomed by the international community for six years. In the keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the summit forum, President Xi Jinping emphasized that the “Belt and Road” outcome will benefit all the people and fully reflect the feelings and responsibilities of China as a responsible country. We believe that the “Belt and Road” Initiative will surely go far and far, and constantly inject vitality into forging a community of shared future for mankind.

Ganbayar, Executive Chairman of the Mongolian Ulaanbaatar Khandi Association, said that Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity responds to

the concerns of the participants from multiple angles and demonstrated the selfless contribution of Chinese social organizations to the world. The cooperation of social organizations is full of expectations.

II Suggestions for the development of Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network

Foreign guests generally said that the cooperation network provides a good platform for social organizations along the line, which is conducive to dialogue, exchanges, mutual learning, strengthening cooperation and coping with common challenges.

Aly H. Mahmoud, former Deputy Foreign Minister of Egypt and former ambassador of Egypt to China, said that since the establishment of the cooperation network for two years, all work has progressed steadily. He suggested that information can be shared through the Internet to promote mutual learning.

Assylbek Kozhakhmetov expressed that once the mechanism construction is further strengthened, the enthusiasm of the member organizations of various countries will be widely mobilized, and wisdom and strength will be jointly contributed to the construction of the cooperation network.

Muratbek Imanaliev, former Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan and Chairman of the Silk Road Foundation, said that the cooperation network can play an important role in promoting exchanges and cooperation between social organizations in the framework of the “Belt and Road” Initiative. He hoped that the cooperation network will broaden the channels for exchanges and play an active role in promoting the commonwealth between the people of the two countries.

Bolat Ussenov, deputy director of the Kazakhstan China Research Center, said that the cooperation network can make more contributions to poverty alleviation and cultural exchanges. He hoped that the cooperation network will contribute to the promotion of Kazakhstan culture in China and along the line.

Franklin M. Nkanata, Director of the Kenyan Association of Non-Governmental Organizations Association, said that he hopes to expand non-governmental exchanges and cooperation between

African-Chinese organizations in the framework of a cooperative network and inject new vitality into African-Chinese friendship.

Hlengiwe R. Nnebe, the National Executive Committee of the South African National Citizenship Organization, said that the cooperation network has played an important and positive role in rallying the efforts of the people of all countries to jointly promote the development of the “Belt and Road” and hopes to expand the representation of its members and benefit more people in the world.

III Learning from the experience of Chinese social organizations participating in social governance

In contact with Chinese social organizations and social organization management departments, members of the group generally feel refreshed and open-minded.

The Mongolian representative said that through this visit, he learned that Chinese social organizations are not only numerous, but also own talents, advanced project management concepts and outstanding professional capabilities. People can't help but admire it when a large number of high-quality talents have joined the social welfare, which has stimulated the vitality of the industry.

The representative of Cambodia said that the public welfare of Chinese social organizations has been fully demonstrated and played a key role in maintaining harmonious social relations and promoting the formation of social consensus. It is of great significance for improving social governance and promoting the healthy development of society. Chinese social organizations have abandoned the development concept of high liberalization, fragmentation and personal interests, providing an example of learning for social organizations in other countries.

(Translated by Bian Peilin)

Election Held for the Chinese Association for International Understanding

On the Morning of May 16, the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) held its first Plenary Session of the 12th Executive Council. Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress, Mme. Yan Junqi, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress and President of the 11th Executive Council of CAFIU, and Minister Song Tao of the International Department of CPC Central Committee (IDCPC) attended and addressed the Session. Vice-Minister Wang Yajun presided over the Session and made clarification on the amendment of CAFIU's constitution, restructuring of leadership, and the candidate for legal person. Ai Ping, former Vice-Minister of IDCPC and Vice-President of CAFIU made a work report on behalf of the 11th Executive Council. The Session approved the amended constitution, elected the leaders and members of the 12th Executive Council. Ji Bingxuan was elected as the President, Wang Yajun as the Executive Vice-President, and Yuan Zhibing as the Secretary-General. The Executive Council was composed of 73 members from various organs of CPC, government institutions, the academia, business and cultural sectors.

The 11th Executive Council was formed in April

2014. For the past five years, CAFIU has taken an active part in the Belt and Road Initiative with a focus on improving people-to-people connectivity, carrying out various exchanges and cooperation with NGOs, think tanks and friendly personnel from across the world.

Facilitate sustained high-level exchanges to enhance state-to-state relations. CAFIU leaders, including President Yan Junqi, Vice President Ji Bingxuan, Vice President Zhang Baowen, Vice President Qi Xuchun and Honorary Vice President Wang Zhizhen paid visits to countries in Europe, Asia and Africa, during which they conducted in-depth exchanges with leaders in parliaments, governments, think-tanks and NGOs on issues such as China's foreign policy and the Belt and Road Initiative, promoted people-to-people connectivity, advanced practical cooperation and furthered state-to-state relations.

Leverage people-to-people diplomacy to take an active part in major diplomatic events. CAFIU took part in a number of people-to-people diplomatic events with extensive coverage and in various forms. It actively made preparations for the Parallel Session on People-to-People Connectivity of the 1st Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) and the Thematic

Forum on People-to-People Connectivity of the 2nd BRF. It was involved in work relating to the BRICS Political Parties, Think-Tanks and Civil Society Organizations Forum, the 5th China-Africa People's Forum, the 1st Shanghai Cooperation Organization People's Forum and other important events. CAFIU worked with the InterAction Council, an international NGO, in jointly hosting the 35th plenary meeting of the council. Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to the plenary meeting, Vice President Wang Qishan held a meeting with the foreign dignitaries. This event sent a strong message to the international community that China is committed to supporting multilateralism, participating in the global governance system reform process, actively promoting a new type of international relations and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Build people-to-people diplomacy brands to expand global reach. People-to-people diplomacy brands help build international consensus, facilitates exchanges of ideas, breaks down stereotypes and creates common ground. Over the past five years, the Understanding and Cooperation Dialogue launched in 2012 has extended its footprint to Germany, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, France and other countries. This platform has effectively improved the overall outcomes of foreign exchanges and become a flagship event of people-to-people diplomacy with a global reach. Launched in 2014, the China-US-Europe Young Leaders Exchanges Program, by offering the opportunity of working together and reaping benefits, has attracted young political leaders and outstanding youth from all walks of life in the US and Europe. The China-Japan Young Leaders Exchange Program has seen its reach extended and played a positive role in enhancing friendly people-to-people exchanges between China and Japan. CAFIU made full use of its special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It sent representatives to attend NGO conferences and events relating to the UN on multiple occasions, took an active part in multilateral events on human

rights, sustainable development and climate change within the UN system, and made China's voice heard in the international and multilateral fora.

Cement cooperative partnerships to advance people-to-people connectivity. CAFIU, dedicated to making more friends and deepening friendship, has expanded its scope of engagement and worked towards building an extensive and multi-faceted cooperative partnership network, bringing the hearts of Chinese people and foreign people closer. CAFIU maintained exchanges with the friendly political parties, NGOs, think-tanks, universities and media in Japan via mutual visits, discussions, thematic seminars and media briefings, contributing its part to taking China-Japan relations back on track. By implementing the "Getting to Know China" program, CAFIU kept engagement with NGOs of over 10 countries, including Cambodia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, India, Indonesia, Nepal, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand. CAFIU conducted in-depth exchanges with think-tanks and mainstream NGOs sponsored by political parties in the United States, Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, France, Greece, Ireland, Poland, Russia and Romania.

CAFIU was among the first batch of social organizations in China which engaged themselves in exchanges with foreign counterparts. It has become an important element in the effort to enhance mutual understanding, promoting concrete cooperation and improving public opinion for friendship between China and other countries. Going forward, CAFIU, building on the momentum of the establishment of the 12th Council, will continue to follow the guidance of the Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, build a high-level platform for dialogue among civilizations, thus making an active contribution to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

(Translated by Jin Yan)

People-to-people Connectivity Builds Strong Foundation for the Belt and Road

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

People-to-people connectivity holds the key to state-to-state relations. Since the inception of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2013, people-to-people connectivity has always been in important position as an integral part of the five forms of connectivity. Over the past five years, positive progress has been made in both the BRI cooperation and people-to-people connectivity. Facing the new situation, new tasks and new requirements, and under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for A New Era, the BRI cooperation will continue to guide opening-up and promote common development. People-to-people connectivity should also play a fundamental role in consolidating the foundation of BRI cooperation.

I. The Origin and Connotation of the Concept of People-to-People Connectivity

1. People-to-people connectivity originates from Chinese traditional culture and diplomatic practices

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has firmly grasped the laws of historical development and followed the right direction in going forward, and has been advancing with the times on the basis of inheriting the fine traditional Chinese culture. Pioneering and innovating on the basis of maintaining the stability and continuity of the

major policies and highlighting the characteristics on the basis of seeking common grounds, the CPC Central Committee has thus launched a series of new thinking, new ideas and new proposals for diplomacy. The proposal of people-to-people connectivity is an important embodiment.

First, it originates from the people-centered thinking of the Chinese civilization. Since ancient times, the Chinese people has always believed that “only by centering on the people can the state enjoy stability” and “a political force will thrive if it goes in line with the people and will decline if it goes against the people”, regarding the people’s support as a determining factor for governing a country. In terms of people-to-people relations, the Chinese people believed that “if brothers are of the same mind, they can even cut the metal and move the mountains”. Only with same mind can we cooperate and accomplish great causes. In terms of foreign relations, the ancient dynasties of China always treated other vulnerable neighbors in the mentality of “giving more and receiving less” and applied righteous and benevolent policies instead of resorting to military forces for hegemony. By doing this China aimed to earn the respect and goodwill of foreign countries, for which the ancient Silk Road and Zheng He’s voyages to the Western Ocean spoke volumes.

Second, it’s based on the fine traditions of diplomacy in New China. The older generation of leaders in New China, living through the

revolutionary wars and placed in the complex and severe international environment of the Cold War, paid great attention to the work of people from other parts of the world. On one hand, the New China greatly supported the people's anti-imperialist and anti-colonial independence and liberation in the Asian, African and Latin American countries, and helped build the Tanzania-Zambia Railway even in its own difficulties and fostered friendship in the hearts of the "third world" people. Premier Zhou Enlai's trip to Asia and Africa was warmly welcomed. "The African brothers brought China into the United Nations". They both are vivid portrayal of the New China's diplomacy. On the other hand, under the backdrop of US-Soviet hegemony and confrontation of two blocs, New China has never given up its efforts to break the external blockade and has done a lot of work to win the hearts of people from other countries. It has written colorful chapters including ping-pong diplomacy between China and the US and China-Japan civil society NGO exchanges, winning more and more friends in the international community.

Third, it has come into shape based on the innovation in theories and practices of diplomacy in the new era. The CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core accurately grasps the profound changes unseen in a century and the new historical position of China, pushes forward innovation of theories and practices in diplomacy and pays great attention to the cause of people-to-people connectivity. President Xi Jinping has made it clear that, the development of relations between different countries is determined by people-to-people connectivity at the end of the day. In 2013, President Xi Jinping proposed the BRI and mentioned people-to-people connectivity for the first time and made it one of the five forms of connectivity, afterwards it was officially written into government documents. The proposal of people-to-people connectivity follows the underlying trend of economic globalization where the interests of all countries are intertwined and different civilizations and people have interactions and exchanges. It is thus a necessary part of the BRI cooperation and for promoting a community with a shared future for humanity.

2. People-to-people connectivity has rich ideological connotations

Through carrying forward the spirit of the ancient Silk Road, people-to-people connectivity aims to enhance trust, friendship and cooperation for common development by promoting the exchanges and interactions among all people. Its connotations can be embodied in three aspects:

First, recognition of ideas. This means appealing to the reason of humanity, strengthening communications of ideas and carrying forward the Silk Road spirit of peaceful cooperation, openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, calling on all people to cherish the shared value of a peaceful and stable "global village" to achieving the shared goal of making the pie of win-win cooperation bigger as well as forming a common concept of making the civilizations of the world flourish together and building a bridge of understanding, mutual trust and cooperation for people from countries of different cultures, national conditions, systems and development stages.

Second, it is accordance of interests. This means consolidating material foundations, finding the prominent interests of people from the participating countries, promoting the coordination of development strategies, focusing on key projects cooperation that promotes development, prioritizing specific cooperation projects that improve people's livelihood. In the process of expanding the convergence of interests between China and other countries, we should make sure that people receive more tangible benefits from cooperation so that people will be more satisfied and supportive in the BRI cooperation.

Third, it is friendliness. This means enhancing friendship, actively promoting exchanges between peoples, localities and that in fields including tourism, education, technology, the media and think tanks and forming partners for exchange and cooperation in rich content, diverse forms that goes deep into the primary level, so that the people's hearts beat together and their bonds of friendship will become stronger.

II. People-to-people connectivity is of great significance to promote “hardware cooperation”

People-to-people cooperation is a fundamental, challenging and higher-level form of connectivity. It's of profound significance to pay attention to people-to-people connectivity for advancing the BRI, promoting the common development of participating countries and building a community with a shared future for humanity.

1. Enhancing people-to-people connectivity is an inherent requirement for ensuring the steady and sustained progress of the BRI cooperation

People-to-people connectivity, together with other forms of connectivity in policy, infrastructure, trade and finance, sets an all-round and all-dimensional landscape for BRI cooperation, covering all areas and the whole process. It's not only a measure and the starting point of the BRI cooperation, providing social foundation for joint consultation and cooperation, but also a purpose and the ending point of the BRI cooperation, constituting as a benchmark for testing the final results. Failure in people-to-people connectivity, on the contrary, will inevitably lead to suspicion and even confrontation, damaging the image of BRI projects and interfering the progress of BRI.

2. Enhancing people-to-people connectivity is a reality requirement of realizing the common development and prosperity of all countries

An important goal of the BRI cooperation is to promote common development, which cannot be achieved without the implementation of investment and capacity projects. Project cooperation is not only restricted by the hardware environment including infrastructures of participating countries but also influenced by soft environment such as social conditions and public opinions. Progress in people-to-people connectivity will be conducive to mobilize the people and pull their wisdoms and strengths to ensure the project cooperation receives steady progress and practical results, achieving benign complementarity of economic and social benefits, so as to realize common development and

shared prosperity.

3. Enhancing people-to-people connectivity is the objective requirement for advancing the building of a community with a shared future for humanity

The BRI cooperation is a positive practice for building a community with a shared future for humanity, in terms of both specific measures and spiritual essence. They complement and correspond with each other. The five fundamental requirements, namely “respecting each other, discussing issues as equals”, “settling disputes through dialogue and resolving differences through discussion”, “sticking together through thick and thin”, “respecting the diversity of civilizations” and “being good friends to the environment” can't be guaranteed without people-to-people connectivity. Imagine if estrangement exists among people from the participating countries, how can we build a community with a shared future where we safeguard peace, promote development, share common interests and assume shared responsibilities together? That said, the work of people-to-people connectivity within the BRI shouldn't be taken for granted, we should integrate and spread the awareness of a community with a shared future so that the people of the participating countries can have a greater sense of belonging for the common undertaking, common responsibility and common future of the BRI.

III. People-to-people connectivity has made sound and steady progress

Over the past five years since the inception of the BRI, it has generated extensive and far-reaching influence to the international community, with more friends joining in the BRI cooperation and the proposals and ideas of it being written into many documents of the United Nations and other international organizations. With the landmark achievements and important early harvests of the BRI, the work concerning people-to-people connectivity also achieved remarkable results on the basis of long-term exchanges between China and other countries.

1. We have set up the policy goals and overall framework of people-to-people connectivity

Over the past five years, in accordance with the decision and deployment of four key documents, the four focuses and eight pillars of people-to-people connectivity have been established. Vision and Actions in Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road has made clear the role, responsibilities, key areas and main channels of people-to-people connectivity in the BRI cooperation, representing the overall design for the work of people-to-people connectivity. Joint Communiqué of the Leaders Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation made clear the principles of cooperation featuring equal consultation, win-win cooperation, market orientation, balance and sustainability and emphasized cooperation measures in enhancing people-to-people exchanges and bonds, representing the guiding principles of the work of people-to-people connectivity. Action Plan for China Civil Society Organizations Promoting People-to-People Connectivity (2017-2020) published in the outcome list of the first BRF outlined the phased goals, specific arrangements and methods, representing the practical guidelines for people-to-people connectivity. Within the above frameworks determined by the Central Committee, localities, all level of CPC committees, government departments, social organizations, civil groups, scientific and research institutions, companies, the media and think tanks, based on their own resources and connections and features, specified specialized cooperation arrangements and plans, providing policy support for the orientation, effectiveness and sustainability of people-to-people connectivity.

2. We have identified key areas and regional arrangements of people-to-people connectivity

In terms of key areas and priorities, with the wide spreading of the concept of people-to-people connectivity, a series of people-to-people cooperation projects have been conducted in responding people's spiritual and material needs, and we have seen many highlights in many areas including education, culture, agriculture, tourism,

charity and political parties. In terms of regional contribution, people-to-people connectivity goes in parallel with the corridors, routes and ports. People-to-people connectivity covers all regions where physical connectivity flourishes. Good friends and good partners of China expand from traditional Eurasian countries along the route to African, Latin American, Southern Pacific and Western European countries and other Western developed countries. With the signing of cooperation agreements with 140 countries and international organizations, people-to-people connectivity has achieved important progress in localities and cultures. More than 1000 pairs of friendly cities have been set up between China and more than 60 participating countries. 548 Confucius Institutes and 1193 Confucius courses have been established in 154 countries and regions. The United Kingdom set up Council of Experts and was the first to announce its support the BRI Asian Project worth of 25 billion pounds. The Swiss government set up the BRI Consultation and Coordination Office.

3. We have built up exchange networks and platforms of people-to-people connectivity

Relying on political parties, social organizations, the media, think tanks, scholars and ordinary people, we have been actively promoting the BRI and the Silk Road spirit and made good achievements. In conducting exchanges, we initiated many exchange networks and platforms participated by many countries, providing a good medium for institutionalized exchanges. The Silk Road Think Tank Association, the Belt and Road News Alliance, the Belt and Road University Strategic Alliance, the Belt and Road Industrial and Commercial Alliance, World Tourism Alliance, and the Alliance of International Science Organizations and International Theater Alliance have been initiated and put into operation. The Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network now has 310 Chinese and international civil society organizations from 69 countries and has conducted over 160 events and projects. The Silk Road Television International Cooperation Community has developed 103 media members from 51 countries, with a number of Chinese TV programs being

translated into 20 languages to other countries. A lot of events have been continuously held by the Silk Road (Dunhuang) International Culture Exhibition, Xinjiang Silk Road Cultural Creative Industry Exhibition and Overseas Chinese Culture Center. Luban Workshop, Silk Road Friends, Happy Spring Festival and others have become highlight brands. All these exchange networks and platforms attracted the participation of a number of people from both the BRI and non-BRI countries, which effectively enhanced the understanding and recognition of each other.

4. We have made early harvest and considerable outcomes in people-to-people connectivity

Over the past five years, we have fully unfolded the work of people-to-people connectivity and made a series of favorable outcomes, which increased the sense of participation, fulfillment and recognition of the ordinary people from more countries on the BRI cooperation, which provides people's support from the international community in building the BRI into the most welcomed international cooperation platform and public good. Targeting at the most urgent needs of the BRI countries, we conducted many livelihood projects including Brightness Trip, Love Trip, Fountain Trip, Love Package, Happy Homeland, Sunshine Village, Green Envoy, China-Pakistan Emergency Corridor and sending medical support to Southern Pacific island countries. We actively conducted education training cooperation and provided the Silk Road scholarship to the BRI countries. The Youth Sinologist Training Project has cultivated 360 young sinologists from 95 countries and Chinese companies have created over 200 thousand jobs and initiated talent cultivation projects in some countries. China has been actively promoting exchange of peoples, and has signed 76 bilateral culture and tourism cooperation documents with participating countries. The two-way visits will exceed 85 million during the 13th Five-Year Plan. All these cooperation projects have brought tangible benefits to the people, enhanced their friendly feeling towards China and thus received widespread welcome. When attending the 5th China-Africa People's Forum, Clément Mouamba,

Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo spoke highly of the cooperation between two countries in education, health and infrastructure building, which effectively improved people's living standards in the Republic of Congo. Nailin, Chairman of Myanmar Brightness Foundation expressed in his visit to the China Foundation for Peace and Development in December 2018, the cooperation between two countries not only directly benefited the people living in remote areas in Myanmar, but also further enhanced the brotherhood between China and Myanmar. Hilde, an ordinary person from Tanzania expressed when talking about her experience in dubbing Chinese TV dramas, "The spreading of movies and TV shows bring us closer, making a ten thousand-mile flight face-to-face."

IV. We should properly handle the relationship between the six aspects and constantly improve the quality and efficiency of the Belt and Road people-to-people connectivity

The achievements made in the past five years have laid a good foundation for further promoting Belt and Road people-to-people connectivity. At the same time, it should be noted that among the five types of connectivity, the people-to-people connectivity is difficult to implement and slow to take effect. Therefore, we need to take continuous and persistent efforts to promote it and consistently summarize successful experience to improve working strategies and methods.

1. We should properly handle the relationship between comprehensive planning and promotion in key areas

On the one hand, people-to-people connectivity is concerned about the public opinions, which involves a wide range of sectors and industries and has great chain effects. It can be said that every tiny thing is related to people's livelihood. Problems in any section could be spread, amplified or distorted, and even affect the overall layout of the Belt and Road construction. We need to make overall planning and consideration for people-to-people connectivity and carefully design and grasp the principles and rules, policies, steps and

progress. During specific implementation, we need to be keenly alert to all kinds of information, so as to avoid improper measures and giving ammunition to critics. On the other hand, as the resource available for carrying out people-to-people connectivity is limited, we should neither excessively overdraw or blindly pursue grandiose targets, nor should we evenly focus on everything like sprinkling pepper powder. Instead, we need to highlight key and difficult points and solve them with concentrated force. We need to focus on cooperation partners along the Silk Road, in locations of major projects and key areas, and give priority to livelihood assistance projects, promote cooperation in education, culture, environmental protection, health and medical care, as well as forge key points with demonstrative effects to drive development of a large area.

2. We should properly handle the relationship between the guidance of government and the participation of social subjects through cooperation between government and people.

People-to-people connectivity is a systematic project involving many participants. We must work in coordination to form joint efforts instead of following divided policies from various sources. To do so, the Party and the government should first play a leading role in pinpointing right policy direction and making good coordination. At the same time, as the source and destination of the people-to-people connectivity lie among the people, we must closely rely on social and civil forces. We need to fully mobilize the enthusiasm and initiatives of social organizations, media, think tank, enterprises and other kinds of main bodies, and give full play to their close ties with people and encourage them to actively make recommendations. Finding the actual situation and specific demands of target people will improve the rationality, pertinence, effectiveness of policies and measures, and make works related to livelihood, human relations and external publicity more close to reality and people's heart.

3. We should integrate theory with practice and properly handle the relationship between the guidance of ideas and pragmatic cooperation.

We should unequivocally put the guidance of ideas as an important part of our work on people-to-people connectivity. From historical origin, rich connotation, construction content, bonuses at present and in the future of the Belt and Road Initiative, we can clearly state the realistic and long-term significance of Belt and Road, and illustrate Silk Road spirit and the idea of promoting the construction of a community with a shared future for humanity. Meanwhile, in view of the actual requirements of facilitating people-to-people connectivity, we should offer more timely help to satisfy the most urgent needs of local people so as to offer tangible aids and create highlights for cooperation. During this process, we should also share stories about the friendship between China and foreign countries as well as China's assistance to other countries so as to prompt the hearty recognition and supports from people in related countries to the Belt and Road Initiative and make them actively participate in the construction cooperation.

4. We should mutually promote each other and ensure that we not only actively implement China's initiative but also promote common participation of all countries.

On the one hand, jointly building the Belt and Road is China's plans to improve the global economic governance system, enhance global common development and prosperity, and build a community with a shared future for humanity. As the initiator and a responsible major country, China is duty-bound to lead the implementation of the plan. In the process of promoting people-to-people connectivity, we must mobilize the wisdom and strength of the government and the people to build popular support, partnership, discourse system and practical achievements which are conducive to the building of Belt and Road. On the other hand, jointly building Belt and Road brings common development opportunities to all countries in the world. It is an unprecedented international cooperation project, which needs to be jointly built through consultation to meet the interests of all. President Xi Jinping pointed out that the Belt and Road construction is not a solo of China, but a

chorus sang by countries along the Belt and Road. China must encourage people around the world to have a deeper understanding of the meaning and value of the Belt and Road Initiative, and promote more countries that are committed to the prosperity and development of themselves and the world to focus on public opinions, transcend narrow nationalism and populism, and centralize resources and strength to jointly devote to the Belt and Road construction.

5. Being both offensive and defensive, we should properly handle the relationship between active refutation and positive publicity.

To strengthen people-to-people connectivity, we need to increase public opinion guidance. Since the launch of the building of the Belt and Road, the support and praise from international community have been growing, but some negative comments that tarnish and tamper the initiative also appears. To tackle with this, we must pertinently carry out refutation and positive publicity. On the one hand, we will not evade from these malicious and distorted remarks, but we will justifiably expose these lies with eloquent facts. On the other hand, with an open and transparent attitude as well as lasting and penetrating publicity, we will positively publicize and interpret the Belt and Road Initiative from perspectives of Chinese and foreign media, think tanks, experts and scholars, and through a variety of media and channels, so that the people of all countries can receive and understand the positive voice.

6. We should properly handle the relationship between leading flagship and other competitive vessels.

Just as a saying goes, “Many hands make light work”, the nature of the people-to-people connectivity determines that it is the cause that requires mass efforts. We must draw on the strength of all the people and jointly contribute our wisdom. However, as hundreds of vessels are competing in the sea for advancement, to pursue steady progress, it is essential to have the flagship leading the way. To fulfill people-to-people connectivity, we need to establish high-quality cooperation

platforms in key areas and regions and make them play a leading and exemplary role. For example, by holding CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting, Thematic Briefings, Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, China-Africa People’s Forum etc., the consensus can be reached for political decisions. Through strengthening mechanisms such as Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network, China NGO Network for International Exchanges, and Belt and Road Think Tank Union, we will lead cultural mutual learning, build a theoretical system and carry out pragmatic cooperation. At the same time, various expert teams can be trained to give full play to their expertise in specific fields, lead exchanges and interactions, and remove cooperation obstacles.

On August 27, 2018, at the symposium on the fifth anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative, President Xi Jinping pointed out that after five years of tamping foundations and constructing frameworks, jointly building Belt and Road is now marching toward a stage of implementation and sustained development, and will change to high-quality development on the basis of maintaining a healthy development momentum. At the same time, we need to strengthen people-to-people and cultural exchanges between different countries, boost vigorous exchanges in education, science and technology, culture, sports, tourism, health, archaeology etc., and provide effective assistance to people's well-being. President Xi Jinping's important speech summarizes the work of jointly building the Belt and Road over the past five years. Moreover, it provides fundamental guidance for promoting the Belt and Road construction in the next stage, and has a profound and long-term significance for the construction of people-to-people connectivity. On the basis of thoroughly understanding and implementing Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy and the guiding principles of Xi's important speeches, we must give full play to the role of building consensus, integrating wisdom and gathering strength so as to consolidate the foundation of the Belt and Road and help realize the great goal of building a community with a shared future for humanity.

China: A Participant in the Liberal International Order, Not a Threat

Wang Huiyao, Director of Center for China and Globalization (CCG)

[Editor's Note] As a defender of the existing international order and a contributor to global development, China is playing an increasingly important role in international affairs. It has become an important task at present to make better use of the mainstream international public opinion field so as to reduce the world's misunderstanding of China and to promote China's identity as an active contributor. As a think tank dedicated to promoting exchanges between China and foreign countries, the Center for China and Globalization (CCG) recently conducted a series of "track II diplomacy" activities in the United States. At the same time, it participated in the Munk Debates, a world-renowned international public debate held in Canada, in an effort to objectively and rationally analyze and explain China to the world audience, especially the western public, on the mainstream western communication platform.

Founded in 2008, the Munk Debate chose controversial issues of global concern as topics for debate. In the form of American debate, the world's top scholars related to the topic area were invited as two opposing groups of debaters. This year's debate focused on the question "Does China pose a threat to the liberal world order?" The affirmative party included former US National Security Advisor HR McMaster and Michael Pillsbury, Director for Chinese Strategy, Hudson Institute, who held the view that "China will threaten the liberal international order"; CCG Chairman Dr. Wang Huiyao, and Kishore Mahbubani, the former rotating President of the UN Security Council and former President of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore, as the opposing party, held the view that

"China will not threaten the liberal international order." At a time of Sino-US trade frictions and strained Sino-Canada relations, we fought it out by refuting the "China Threat Theory" with facts and won the debate. Thus, we have conveyed China's voice to the world and strengthened people's trust and understanding for China. The main points of Dr. Wang Huiyao's in the debate are now summarized as follows:

China benefits from and contributes to the world. China's development has benefited from the world trade system and from all countries in the world. Now is the time for China to pay back. In fact, China has brought many benefits to the development of other countries.

First of all, China is praised by the United Nations as "a key factor and a key force in peacekeeping operations". China has participated in UN peacekeeping operations for 29 years. As the largest UN peacekeeping troop contributor, China's budget share for UN peacekeepers has also increased from 3% in 2013 to more than 10% in 2018. Moreover, China's poverty alleviation policy has also made a significant contribution to the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. From the end of 1978 to the end of 2017, China contributed more than 70% to the global poverty reduction. The poverty reduction model and the targeted poverty alleviation policy adopted are of great significance to the world's war against poverty.

Secondly, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) supported by China has a positive impact on strengthening the free international order. So far, AIIB has approved 39 projects worth 7.94 billion US dollars, aiming at providing strong support for the Asian Community of Common Destiny and diversifying regional cooperation agencies promoting the reform of the liberal international order. In addition, the proposal and implementation of the "Belt and Road Initiative" is also one of the most typical examples. Although this Initiative is still being improved, China is the only country that has offered a blueprint for global development and proposed solutions. As a multilateral infrastructure construction project, the "Belt and Road Initiative" has greatly promoted the infrastructure and economic development of the countries along the route through regional cooperation, and has also attracted a large amount of investment to them. At present, with the involvement of the G7 and G20 countries, the principles of the "Belt and Road Initiative" framework will be gradually improved and will bring more benefits to the B&R countries.

China has always been opening and developing in a rule-following, peaceful and friendly manner. Some think tank scholars in the United States questioned "China's rejection of the world trade mechanism and its domination of the economy by the government over the market mechanism

respected by the United States". In fact, China's development since its accession to the WTO has been based on adhering to national principles, carrying out economic reforms according to its national conditions, and accepting and learning from the world trade system. Therefore, it is undeniable that China has conformed to the WTO system. In the past 40 years, China's economy has grown by leaps and bounds, making it one of the world's two largest economies and also the world's largest market today, which provides other countries with a huge international trade market. It can be said that China is an excellent opportunity for the liberal international system.

What's more, the WTO reviews China's "development status" every year. If China is already a developed country instead of a developing one, the WTO reform and restructuring should be taken into consideration instead of directly opposing China on the grounds of forced technology transfer. Compulsory technology transfer has become a cliché in recent years, but for China, the transnational development of science and technology conforms to international law and the international order. Moreover, the Foreign Investment Law passed in March this year is a strict control on misconducts like stealing international assets and forcing technology transfer. China and the United States, including other countries, should resolve the doubts and differences arising from international cooperation through consultation.

The specific national conditions determine China's human rights development and openness of society. Can the status quo of human rights in China be described as a matter of democracy and despotism? The answer is undoubtedly no. With a large population, a vast territory and numerous nationalities, China is in a very special and complicated position. The remarkable achievements in China's poverty reduction, the maturing market economy and the popularization of electronic equipment over the past 40 years have all proved that China not only pays great attention to human rights and other values, but also

implements these basic principles through practical actions.

Last year, China established the Immigration Administration and issued 23,000 green cards the year alone. All this proves that both human rights and democracy are progressing well and have become an important factor in attracting outstanding talents. China's opening-up endeavor has entered a new stage. With globalization facing new challenges today, when we further deepen and expand the opening up to the outside world, strengthen international cooperation and participate in globalization, at the same time we need to safeguard national security and interests. To do this, the specific national condition is one of the considerations that cannot be ignored. While making great progress, China is still learning and developing. China's peaceful and stable development plays an important role in supporting, strengthening and improving the liberal international order and is also in the interests of China and other countries in the world.

China is a participant in the liberal international order who applies what he has learned, not a threat. In the 40 to 50 years after World War II, it was precisely because of the existing international order that no new signs of world war have appeared. Therefore, we should maintain and safeguard this order. Since ancient times, China has had an "inclusive" cultural tradition. Deng Xiaoping's easy-to-understand "black cat and white cat" metaphor also emphasizes China's respect and recognition of different cultures and traditions as well as China's ability to learn from excellent practice.

The international situation is changing day by day, but globalization has always been the general trend that has not changed. Today, when globalization is entering a new stage, no country is able to manage the threat of global problems alone. China stands together with the rest of the world. In this new era of coexistence and common development of all, expanding exchanges and cooperation is the

shared choice for all countries including China. Therefore, China's development is not a threat, but contribution to common progress.

Recently, the United States has repeatedly restricted the development of Huawei's 5G technology in the country. It issued a "90-day Temporary General License" and even interfered with Huawei's cooperation with European countries. This has also led to tense Sino-US economic and trade relations again. However, the development and promotion of China's 5G technology and related cross-border cooperation benefit all countries worldwide. China, the United States and all other countries should commit themselves to international cooperation in the common interest.

During the 40 years of reform and opening up, China has been learning and absorbing successful experience in the process of participating in globalization. It fulfills the responsibilities of a permanent member of the UN Security Council by actively participating in UN peacekeeping operations; it opens its market wider by issuing a new Foreign Investment Law to create an even high-quality environment for foreign investment; it deepens multilateral economic and trade cooperation by promoting the "Belt and Road Initiative"--China's development in various fields is depicting the image of an inclusive, peaceful and friendly country. In the new era of globalization, the international order and the development of international organizations are also facing new challenges and opportunities. China will continue to play an important role by facilitating the reform of international order with other countries. At the same time, it will also aim to jointly build a just and peaceful international community and make greater contribution to strengthening the existing international mechanisms.

(Translated by Fan Qin)

Chinese NGOs Actively Participate in the 40th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

The 40th session of the UN Human Rights Council opened in Geneva on February 25, 2019. During the session, the UN Human Rights Council successfully approved China's participation in the third round of national human rights review on March 15. Chinese NGOs actively participated in the session and played a unique role. They introduced China's human rights proposition from a non-governmental perspective, responded to unwarranted accusations, and enhanced the comprehensive and objective understanding of China's human rights policies, achievements and initiatives by representatives of various countries and parties.

Actively spoke at the universal periodic review meeting

On March 15, 2019, the UN Human Rights Council successfully approved China's participation in the third round of national human rights review. Chinese NGOs spoke actively among the NGOs by comprehensively introducing China's policies, measures and achievements in the development of human rights.

Zhang Dan, Vice President of the United Nations Association of China, on behalf of the United Nations Association of China, the United Nations Association of Cuba, the Cuban National Association of Legal Scholars and the National Association of Economists of Cuba, made a joint statement, emphasizing that the path to realizing the value of human rights is diverse and no one can monopoly defines the value of human rights, and the Human Rights Council should respect cultural diversity while promoting the protection of human rights. It is hoped that the governments and non-governmental organizations will conduct

constructive and fair exchanges on all human rights issues, including the right to development, through the National Human Rights Review Mechanism.

Wu Peng, representative of the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, introduced the poverty reduction project launched by his organization in recent years. He said that the project brought tangible help to the beneficiaries and guaranteed their right to life and development, which was warmly welcomed by the local people. In the future, the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation will continue to raise more resources to share China's poverty reduction experience with developing countries and strive to achieve the UN 2030 sustainable goals.

Shu Yangwen, representative of the Chinese Association for International Understanding, shared China's efforts to promote economic development, improve people's livelihood and develop education in ethnic minority areas. Combined with case studies, she vividly told the story of a minority father who has gone through the education and training center to change his mind and agree his daughter go to school.

In the general debate on national human rights review, He Guoke, representative of the Beijing Zhicheng Migrant Workers Legal Aid and Research Center, mentioned that according to the Chinese government report, there are 280 million migrant workers in China, accounting for one-fifth of the total population. In the recent decade, the organization has provided legal advice to more than 85,000 migrant workers and provided legal assistance to 13,000 migrant workers. The organization also promoted this work nationwide, promoted the establishment of more than 40 legal

aid agencies for migrant workers, and trained more than 160 lawyers. In the future, the organization will continue to work to protect the legitimate rights and interests of migrant workers.

Niu Shuaishuai, representative of the Beijing Youth Legal Aid and Research Center, introduced the reform of China's child protection legislation in recent years. She listed the recent efforts of the government and civil society to improve child protection laws, regulations and protection mechanisms, and strengthen the care and protection to the left-behind children.

Held the thematic side meeting

Permanent Mission of China to the UN Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland and the China Human Rights Research Association jointly held a side meeting on the theme of "Development Achievements in the Human Rights of Xinjiang" in Geneva on March 13. It comprehensively introduced the real situation in Xinjiang from the perspectives of history, reality and law, and concentrated on clarifying some misleading information.

Yu Jianhua, the Permanent Representative of Permanent Mission of China to the UN Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland, said in his speech that today's Xinjiang is in the fastest-growing and stable period in history that economic, political, social, cultural and environmental rights of the people of all ethnic groups are fully guaranteed. The Chinese government's fight against terrorism and extremism has laid a solid foundation for Xinjiang's prosperity and stability today.

Zuliyati Simayi, a member of the China Human Rights Research Association and a professor at the School of Politics and Public Administration of Xinjiang University, said in his speech that Xinjiang has been an inalienable part of China since ancient times. Xinjiang is a member of the Chinese nation and Xinjiang national culture. It has always flourished in the fertile soil of Chinese culture. Xinjiang has been a place of multi-religious harmony and development since ancient times.

Zhang Nan, a member of the China Human Rights Research Association and a researcher at the Anti-Terrorism Law School of the Northwest University

of Political Science and Law, introduced the Chinese religious freedom policy at the side event and explained the violent terror and religious extremism in a concrete case to trample on the basic human rights of various ethnic groups in Xinjiang, including the right to freedom of belief, have caused serious harm to Xinjiang. He said that in this context, it is lawful and necessary for government to protect citizens' lives and property safety and freedom of religious belief with anti-terrorism and extremist measures including vocational skills education and training according to law.

Li Changlin, a member of the China Human Rights Research Association and a professor at the Southwest University of Political Science and Law, said in his speech that China has established an effective anti-terrorism legal system by continuously improving relevant legislation. It is the basic principle that China has always upheld to fight terrorism, protect human rights, prohibit discrimination, and treat both the symptoms and the root causes. In accordance with the law, the government has carried out anti-terrorism and de-extremization work through vocational skills education and training following the legal procedures. It is a fundamental measure to eliminate the environment and soil that breeds terrorism and religious extremism.

At the side meeting, the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Pedroso, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Russia to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Nikita Zhukov, and the Permanent Office of Belarus to the United Nations at Geneva Deputy General Pisalevich and others briefed the audience on what they saw and heard in Xinjiang and expressed their deep impression on the prosperity and stability of Xinjiang.

Nearly 200 national diplomats, officials of international organizations and representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations from more than 70 countries attended the side meeting.

(Translated by Bian Peilin)

Contributing People's Wisdom to Global Governance: Side notes of C20 Japan 2019

Ma Jingjing

Since its initiation in 2013, C20 has gained increasing influence in the international civil society. It has become an important supporting event of the G20 summit and an important platform for civil society to offer advice and suggestions to governments and all sectors of society on topics of G20. C20 Japan 2019 was held by Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) in Tokyo on April 21-23, with the theme of "Leave no one behind". It consisted ten working groups, namely, anti-corruption, education, environment, climate and energy, gender, global health, infrastructure, international financial architecture, labor, business and human rights, Local2Global, and investment and trade. About 830 delegates from 40 countries and regions attended this year's C20. Three representatives from China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) attended C20, together with representatives from other Chinese NGOs such as China Association for NGO Cooperation, China Association for Life Care, Rock Environment and Energy Institute, Chengdu Huizhi Participation Center, etc.

All G20 members have attached great importance to communication and interaction with civil society through C20. "Civil society organizations are an important force for people of all countries to

participate in public affairs and promote economic and social development." President Xi Jinping said in a congratulatory letter to C20 Qingdao 2016. The German Chancellor Angela Merkel attended C20 2017 and accepted the Communiqué. The Argentine President Mauricio Marci attended and addressed the opening ceremony of C20 2018. Prior to this year's C20, representatives of the host organization, together with representatives of previous and future organizers presented the Communiqué and policy recommendations to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on April 18, and exchanged views with Abe on how to strengthen the contribution of civil society to G20. Abe said that this year's G20 summit would discuss issues related to free trade and inclusive growth, and he would urge relevant parties to seriously consider the policy recommendations presented by C20. At the opening ceremony, Toshiko Abe, the deputy Japanese Foreign Minister made a keynote speech, affirmed the positive role of NGOs in social administration, supervision and service, saying that the Foreign Ministry would like to continue to promote cooperation with NGOs by providing funds, strengthening capacity building, and carrying out policy dialogues, particularly in infrastructure construction, disaster prevention and mitigation, marine governance, climate change

and other fields, to further help with Japan's implementation of the UN SDGs. Toshiko Abe, on behalf of the Japanese government, accepted the Communique and policy recommendations of C20 once again. Senior Officials from Japan's Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of economy, trade and industry attended the meeting and made specialized speeches. NGO representatives, scholars and experts from Japan, ROK, Cambodia and some African countries, Oxfam Hong Kong, World Vision, Plan International, Transparency International and other well-known international NGOs attended C20 and participated in the discussion.

After the opening ceremony and plenary sessions, C20 hosted breakout sessions on specific topics. The working group of CNIE and other Chinese NGOs mainly participated in discussions on health, education, environment and other topics, introducing the work done by Chinese NGOs in the above-mentioned areas, and expounding China's views and positions on relevant issues. The working group also exchanged views with representatives of JANIC, the sponsor of C20 2019, introduced the participation of Chinese NGOs in international cooperation, shared experience of sponsoring C20, and discussed how to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation between NGOs in China and Japan. We can feel from the discussions that Japanese NGOs who took part in C20 are highly international and professional, with considerable clout in areas such as development, gender, climate and environment, forging stable relations with the United Nations and important international NGOs. They are willing to make recommendations to G20 through C20, so as to better cope with global challenges.

On the day of closure, the agenda focused on the future of C20 and its interaction with other engagement groups. Over the years, G20 has expanded its agenda, with more engagement groups and more representation. During this year's C20, senior representatives from other engagement

groups such as B20, W20, Y20, T20, S20 and L20 were present at the session to report on the preparation or hosting of relevant events. As the host of the next C20, a senior representative from King Khalid Foundation of Saudi Arabia attended and addressed the closing session, introducing the preparation of C20 for the next year. She said that they would maintain close communication with C20 host organizations, make effective coordination in agenda setting and arrangement, to ensure a sustainable role of C20 within the framework of G20. After this year's C20, the Secretariat also proposed to sign a joint statement on issues of protecting the rights and interest of labor and eliminating gender discrimination with other engagement groups.

According to the Communiqué issued by C20 this year, in order to better advance the UN 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development and uphold multilateralism, G20 needs to take concrete actions. Civil society organizations can engage in effective dialogues with governments, reflect the needs of the people, ensure the implementation of policies, and contribute their wisdom to building an inclusive and prosperous world. After attending this year's C20, we find that G20 and all sectors of society have attached increasing importance to the strength of C20, and would like to strengthen cooperation with NGOs in relevant fields to jointly address global challenges and promote inclusive growth. This presents significant development opportunities for NGOs. Chinese NGOs should give full play to their own strength, enhance their capacity, strengthen interaction with the government and other parties, and strive to become an important force for economic and social development and reform of global governance.

(Translated by Ma Jingjing)

Dialogue on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Development in Southern Lebanon

The Arab-Chinese Cooperation and Development Association, a member of Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network, held a dialogue in the Kamel Jaber Cultural and Social Center of Nabatiyeh under the title "Belt and Road Initiative and Development in South Lebanon". More than 50 people including MP Yassine Jaber, the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Committee in the Lebanese Parliament, Kassem Tofailli, Chairman of the Arab-Chinese Cooperation and Development Association and President of the Arab Chinese Cooperation and Development Association, members of the local municipal council, and business people. Wang Kezhen, the Chinese Ambassador to Lebanon, was invited to attend the meeting.

Mr. Ahmed Bazoun, Director of Cultural Affairs of the Arab Chinese Association, delivered a welcoming speech, focusing on the importance of the "Belt and Road" Initiative and the role of the Association in activating relations between China and Lebanon.

The first speech was delivered by His Excellency Yassin Jaber, stressing the importance of the leading role played by China at the economic level in the world. He praised the positive role of the "Belt and Road" Initiative and the important achievements it achieves. He also expressed his appreciation for China's efforts in promoting the development of bilateral relations with Lebanon, hoping for more positive progress on development projects between the two countries.

The next speech was made by Mr. Kassem Tofailli, President of the Arab Chinese Cooperation and Development Association who explained the objectives of the Association in reviving the Arab-Chinese relations. He also noted the distinctive gesture of Minister Jaber on the importance of relations with China and the special role he should play. Lebanon and China are closely linked in economic, social and cultural aspects. Lebanon should actively participate in the construction of the

"Belt and Road" and build on China's development express train. The Arab Chinese Cooperation and Development Association maintained good cooperative relations with many Chinese organizations. He hoped that the association can further strengthen communication and cooperation with Chinese social organizations.

Then the Chinese Ambassador Wang Kejian thanked Minister Jaber for inviting him to participate and visit South Lebanon. He stressed that China and its embassy in Lebanon and the Commercial and Economic Consular Section welcome in all channels of communication with those concerned to begin to develop plans for the development of the South, and benefit from Chinese expertise in all fields.

The Ambassador outlined the goals of the "Belt and Road" Initiative, briefed the audience on the latest development in the initiative and mentioned the achievements of cooperation in the "Belt and Road" Initiative between China and Lebanon. He wished for more fruitful relations to open wider horizons in Lebanese-Chinese relations. He also pointed out that Lebanon imports more than 2 billion US dollars from China and China is ready to adjust the trade balance by opening the Chinese markets and encouraging investment in Lebanon. The Ambassador also offered some updates about the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

After the speeches, the Chinese Ambassador had further dialogue and discussions in which a number of attendees participated, focusing on how to benefit from Chinese experience and investment for the development of Southern Lebanon.

At the end of the dialogue, honorary trophies were distributed to Chinese Ambassador Wang Kejian and Minister Yassine Jaber.

(Translated by Bian Peilin)

Abstracts of Speeches of Foreign Guests at the Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

[Editor's Note] At the Thematic Forum on People-to-People Connectivity of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, some celebrated foreign guests took part in group discussions on themes such as the role of people-to-people connectivity in Belt and Road initiative, the concept and content of people-to-people connectivity in the Belt and Road development and changes needed in our work, how to make the most of people-to-people connectivity in the Belt and Road initiative and building a community with a shared future for mankind, strengthen people-to-people exchanges and bonds as well as build new platforms of international cooperation. Here are abstracts from the speeches of some important foreign guests.

Moratinos, Senior Representative of United Nations Alliance of Civilizations:

As we know, the Belt and Road initiative (we can also call it the new Silk Road) is a great proposal—it is neither the so-called geopolitical tools, nor a project of solely building infrastructure by China for the rest of the world. The theme of this Thematic Forum is just a good embodiment of one of the important goals of the Belt and Road initiative—promoting the common development of mankind.

By having a look at history, it's not difficult to find that the ancient Silk Road contains the spirits of openness and inclusiveness. The ancient Silk Road connected areas such as the Nile Valley, Tigris-Euphrates River Basin, Ganges Valley and Yangtze River basin as well as peoples such as Egyptian, Indian, Chinese and Muslim, Christian and Buddhist. In the above mentioned areas, we can see the exchanges and interaction between different civilizations and religions. The ancient Silk Road tells us stories on economic prosperity and human progress. We should learn from history and create a better future. This is also one of the important reasons that I chose this Thematic Forum. On the one hand, the Belt and Road initiative inherits

the spirit of ancient Silk Road; on the other hand, the Belt and Road initiative is rooted from long-range perspective of global development—it aims to enhance understanding via communication and personnel exchange. As a Senior Representative of United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, I have profound understanding on this point.

Founded in 2005, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations is expected to improve the relations between countries and regions with different cultures, as well as to prevent and resolve conflicts. In addition, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations also strives to eliminate terrorism and violent extremism. The world is facing all kinds of complicated challenges—usually, when the old conflicts are still to be resolved, new conflicts have emerged. Terrorism and hostility, as well as discrimination due to racial and cultural reasons occur here and there, just like the tragedies happened in New Zealand and Sri Lanka recently. We are living in the 21st century. It's unbearable that such tragedies should happen. Therefore, we need to take actions actively.

The Belt and Road initiative is conducive to promoting personnel exchange and trade. We should not neglect the people-to-people exchanges

in this process. The key of people-to-people connectivity lies in people. People of China and other Asian countries, central Europe and Africa should work closely to build a better world. We must shoulder our responsibility by building multilateral platforms and launching more projects. In my opinion, the Belt and Road initiative and United Nations Alliance of Civilizations have both proved that by cooperating with each other and enhancing exchange, we can achieve a win-win situation and bring benefit to everyone.

We should cooperate to promote multilateralism and build a sound and sustainable multilateral mechanism together. I recalled a Chinese proverb, "It is only by footsteps that we can cover miles; it is only by streams that we can form rivers and seas". The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations hopes to work hand in hand and move forward with you.

Faure, Executive Director of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF):

People-to-people connectivity is of crucial importance to the progress and development of mankind. In the past 40 years, UNICEF has been striving to strengthen cooperation with China and the rest of the world, and we hope that such close cooperation could continue in the future. In China, we are going to make our new five-year-plan, including developing early childhood education, nutritional care, health and clean water project, and the especially important childhood brain protection. In addition, we will pay attention to the protection and vocational training to youth and children, so as to facilitate their employment and entrepreneurship. These are all focal points of China in terms of human resource development.

We hope to promote the development of cooperation in terms of children's work via strengthening south-south cooperation-this is a very good opportunity for China and the rest of the world. On the one hand, it could help other countries learn about the poverty reduction achievements of China in the past years; on the other hand, among 192 countries in the world, most attach great importance to children's development-support and promote the development of these countries could enable them learn the experience and advantages of China's development. One profound feeling draw from our programs in China is friendship and cooperation. We hope that the working model of our programs in China could be promoted to other countries and enhance the development of children's work.

Nepal, Secretary of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of Nepal Communist Party:

In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Belt and Road Initiative. It is the greatest proposal in the world so far. This initiative aims to build closer global communication, promote global economic cooperation, infrastructure development and connectivity. I think that the Belt and Road Initiative is one of the largest cooperative platforms and one of the largest trans-continental cooperative platforms in the world.

Since the First Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was held in 2017, the job of people-to-people connectivity has made great achievements in terms of carrying forward the spirit of ancient Belt and Road, responding to the requirements of times, and promoting cultural exchange between different continents and countries. The relations between Nepal and China have also been strengthened. In May 2017, Nepal and China signed the Belt and Road cooperation memorandum, and one of the important items of the memorandum is to strengthen personnel exchanges, which embodied the importance attached to people-to-people connectivity under the framework of Belt and Road. China remains the largest source of foreign investment for Nepal in the past three years. Nepal attaches great importance to the cooperation with China-the Nepal government has set the year 2020 as Nepal Tourism Year, hoping to attract 2,000,000 tourists. China is bound to become the largest participant of Nepali tourism, which is expected to further promote people-to-people exchanges between Nepal and China.

By further promoting trans-continental cooperation, the Belt and Road Initiative will bring development and prosperity for all countries and all developing countries in the world will benefit from such cooperation. Cooperation will create more opportunities for all countries improve people's livelihood, especially for those underdeveloped countries to lift thousands of hundreds of people out of poverty.

Pollevinsky, President of Mexico National Baath Movement Party:

As an important tool of people-to-people connectivity, the Belt and Road initiative is conducive to promoting mutual understanding between people of different countries. After beating numerous challenges in terms of politics, economy and society, China has become one of the most promising countries in the world and is also a role model for Mexico. China chooses to

build a better world via the means of cooperation, protecting environment and building a community with a shared future for mankind. The Belt and Road initiative will help us strengthen cooperation, mutual trust and understanding, promote political, economic and social development, entrench the development of friendship between peoples and relations between countries. We should work together for the well being of human society.

The Belt and Road initiative is a proposal with grand perspective and social responsibility. It is different from free trade agreements, which only focus on trade in terms of products and service. Instead, the Belt and Road initiative take the well being of human society as its focal point-this is a very important point.

For Latin America, we are facing many threats-among which the threat of war is always bothering us. Some hegemonic states only focus on the obtaining of controlling power of oil resources instead of people's rights and interests. Therefore, for Latin America and Caribbean regions, the Belt and Road initiative is of special importance. It is conducive to promote the development of multilateralism and help us get rid of the threat of war. Cooperation is build upon mutual understanding and trust. For Latin American countries to learn and understand more about China, we suggest Chinese government maintaining close high-level exchanges with countries in this region, staging all kinds of symposiums and seminars, and creating more scholarships for international students from this region. In my opinion, language barrier is also one of the major factors hindering our exchange. I hope Chinese government could organize the translation of Chinese history, culture and literature into Spanish and promote its spreading, so that Mexicans and Chinese could have a better learning and understanding on each other.

Tan Kok Wai, National President of Malaysia Democratic Action Party (DAP):

Malaysia and China enjoy profound historical friendship and cultural connectivity. In 2018, bilateral trade volume between Malaysia and China reached 108.6 billion US dollars, which is a record high and up by 13% compared with the previous year. This volume equals to 678 times of the number of 1975-the year in which China and Malaysia established diplomatic relations. Meanwhile, in 2018, 2.94 million Chinese tourists visited Malaysia, up by 29% compared with the number of 2017. These numbers show that Sino-Malaysian relations are stepping forward

on the right path. The Belt and Road initiative takes promoting policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bonds as its five major goals. In my perspective, people-to-people connectivity is the most important one. It is also of most popularity among ordinary people and of least controversy among the five goals. Therefore, both sides working together to promote people-to-people bonds and exchange, interaction and mutual understanding between the people is of great importance for the development of Sino-Malaysian relations.

One of the symbolic projects of people-to-people bonds between Malaysia and China is the Xiamen University Malaysia. Running into operation in 2016, Xiamen University Malaysia is the first branch of well-known universities in China established overseas. It is the embodiment of the return of spirit of Xiamen University's first president Chen Jiageng to Malaysia, the country where he started his business empty-handed. In addition, Confucius Institute in University of Malaysia boasts some 10,000 registered students. It provides basic Chinese training course to officials of non-Chinese descendants working in government departments of Malaysia, turning out to be a concrete achievement of Sino-Malaysian public diplomacy. People-to-people bonds between Malaysia and China is also embodied by the more and more frequent academic and cultural exchange and civil society interaction. There are a large number of friendly non-governmental organizations and civil society groups in both countries, which are the best platforms for us to carry out public diplomacy. We will soon witness the 45th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and China. Taking this chance, I would like to offer three suggestions for further promoting people-to-people bonds between both sides here: first, China could encourage more Malaysian international students to learn in China by offering more scholarships; second, both sides should probe into measures supporting the implementation of visa-free policy, so as to promote bilateral tourism; third, both sides could enact more policies to encourage people working in literary and art sectors to carry out more cooperation in cultural and creative industry.

(Translated by Ma Jiatai)

Many Thanks to Chinese Friends for the “Springs of Happiness”

Ding Zi and Zhao Yipu

“We dig these wells in places where there are plenty of disadvantaged families and public areas like schools, so that more people in need could get help and feel the benefits brought by springs of happiness.”

“Besides springs of happiness, among the 16 industrial enterprises in Bati County, 14 were established by the Chinese, which was also one of the important sources of happiness for local people.”

“Bati County is located 50 kilometers southwest of the national capital Phnom Penh, and belongs to Takeo Province of Cambodia. Knowing that we are coming for interviews on the program named “Friends of Silk Road-Spring of Happiness”, Deputy County Magistrate Salpa was waiting us in a gas station nearby the 2# highway much ahead of the scheduled time. Dressed with plain clothes, the slightly shy middle-aged man said when he saw us, “Welcome to Bati. Many thanks to our Chinese friends for the spring of happiness”.

“It’s the happiest thing that there is clean water in all seasons”

“Friends of Silk Road-Springs of Happiness” rural wells program is a public welfare program focusing on people’s livelihood backed by China Foundation for Peace and Development. This program aims to dig 200 wells for 18 towns of Bati County and Berezusa County of Takeo Province, Cambodia. People of these two counties are in extreme shortage of water—they have to collect rain via vat or reservoir in rainy season and buy water in dry season. Salpa told us, buying water in dry season could cost each family 10 to 15 US dollars. Life of local people was not abundant and it is a heavy burden for many families.

Cheamunyrith, Director of Department of Program Planning, Cambodian Civil Society Organizations Alliance Forum told us the story behind the 200 wells in Takeo Province. “In 2016, a Chinese friend and I passed by the Takeo Province. He

wanted to have a look at local rural areas. I brought him to a local family and the master of the family was named Nuck. Nuck wanted to treat us with some water. However, the water in his vat was not suitable for drinking. Therefore, in spite of the hot weather, he hurried to the 2# highway and bought us some clean water from the vehicle”.

Usually, there are at least 2 or 3 vats in the yard of each local family. These vats are with the height of 1.2 meters and the maximum diameter of 1 meter. “When Nuck’s son came back from school and wanted to fetch some water from the vat to wash his face, he was reproached by Nuck. Nuck and his son were not at ease at that moment for this case. “This has moved my Chinese friend and me, and we had the idea of digging wells for local people,” said Cheamunyrith.

In 2017, in cooperation with related departments of China, the Cambodian Civil Society Organizations Alliance Forum strived to promote the establishment of relations between China Foundation for Peace and Development and Takeo Province. In February 2018, the delegation of the Foundation investigated programs in Cambodia. “We witnessed the water shortage striking local people—some senior citizens and children even down to sick because of drinking water stored in the vat for a long time. One villager told us, if there were a well in the village and people can drink clean water in all seasons, it will be the happiest thing in the world. From that moment on, the seed of spring of happiness began to sprout in our hearts”, said Liu Na, program officer of Department of Program Management of the Foundation.

“We will never forget that it is our Chinese brothers who help us dig wells”

When they came back China, staff of the Foundation started the project set-up procedures. In the end, the administrative council of the Foundation determined to sign contracts with related departments of Cambodia and launch

the “Friends of Silk Road-Spring of Happiness” rural wells program. With a total investment of 440,000 US dollars, this program will benefit some 2,000,000 local people.

On March 11, the completion ceremony of the first session program was held in Bati County. “Till March 26, 144 wells under the first session of the program have been delivered for use. We will complete the remaining job in cooperation with the Cambodian side”, said Liu Na.

“These wells do us a great favor”, said Salpa, “there was no water supply, and we don’t have the money to dig wells either. There are droughts every year, be it serious or slight. You can see, there is high temperature warning these days. Without these wells, the lasting drought from April to June will certainly make many families run out of water. These wells save us from a lot of sufferings.”

Salpa led us to see one of these wells. We could hear children playing at the open space nearby the well before we could see it. There is a stone tablet standing near the new well, on which reads “Friends of Silk Road-Spring of Happiness” in both Chinese and Cambodian. One of the children is fetching water and the rest of them are splashing and playing water. Some villagers are chatting with each other when they are waiting to fetch water.

Lejo, one of the villagers, is waiting to fetch water. There are six people in his family. 45 years old, he has been living in the village since he was born. “In the past, there was no water in this season as the vats and pools are all dry. We had to travel for a long distance to buy water. Sometimes our money was not enough—we can only afford the water for drinking. As we cannot afford irrigation water, we had to watch our banana and papaya wither and die. Now it’s different—water from the well is not only inexpensive but also convenient. We will never forget that it is our Chinese brothers helped us dig these wells.”

“We dig these wells in places where there are plenty of disadvantaged families and public areas like schools, so that more people in need could get help and feel the benefits brought by springs of happiness”, said Salpa.

“Before digging these wells, we carried out professional geological survey. With the depth of 100 to 120 meters, these wells are of nearly twice the depth of ordinary wells. We send water sample to authoritative examining departments in Phnom Penh, and offered water filtration equipment, in an effort to ensure the quality of drinking water for local residents”, said Liu Na.

We tasted the water from the “springs of happiness” and it was really clean and sweet.

When we left the village, the children were still playing and Lejo and other villagers waved goodbye to us from a distance.

“The affinity between the peoples offers a solid foundation for two countries to jointly build the Belt and Road”

“Springs of happiness” is not only a project of happiness closely related with the livelihood of local people, but also a project which embodies the friendship between peoples of China and Cambodia.

“In important moments such as digging, sending up and sampling water, many villagers waited there with their eyes full of expectation. We could feel that the “springs of happiness” project not only reflects the sincere friendship between Chinese and Cambodian people, but also extends the best wishes of Chinese people to Cambodian people”, said Liu Na.

“Besides springs of happiness, among the 16 industrial enterprises in Bati County, 14 were established by the Chinese, which was also one of the important sources of happiness for local people”, introduced by Perkin, magistrate of Bati county, to the journalists. These Chinese enterprises involved in sectors such as garments making and building material production, offering jobs for nearly 20,000 local residents.

Springs of happiness not only guarantee people’s life, but also make it possible for the further development of local economy. We were told that the daily salary of local factory workers was about 10 US dollars. In the past, they had to spend at least 1 dollar for buying drinking water. As now there is water from the wells, they can save more money to improve their livelihood. With workers and enterprises having more confidence, local economy has really benefited and got more developed.

“Projects like springs of happiness could not only help local people solve practical difficulties, but also improve their livelihood, and it is therefore the most timely and effective program. The affinity between the people offers a solid foundation for two countries to jointly build the Belt and Road”, said Cheamunryth.

Perkin told us that each year, many students and civil servants of Bati county go to China to receive training and the Chinese government offers them scholarship. “We are very grateful for China. We believe that friendship between Chinese and Cambodian people will become stronger and last forever in the process of exchanges”, said Perkin.

(The authors are journalists of People’s Daily.)

(Translated by Ma Jiatai)

News about International Exchanges of NGOs

(January-June, 2019)

On January 8, Deputy Secretary General of China Education Association for International Exchange Shen Xuesong met with Minister Counsellor (Education and Research) of Australian Embassy in China Brooke Hartigan and Director of International Education of Australian Trade and Investment Commission Rebecca Hall.

On January 13, the China-Russia Spring Festival Gala for Youth was held in Beijing, which was jointly hosted by China Soong Ching Ling Science and Culture Centre for Young People and Russian Cultural Centre in Beijing of Russian International Cultural Exchange Cooperation Agency. More than 300 people attended this event, including friends and teenager representatives from China and Russia.

On January 14, Deputy Secretary General of China Foundation for Peace and Development Wang Hua met with the Director of Pakistani Balochistan Fisheries Federation and President of the Kalmar Group Kalmyti and two of his colleagues in Beijing. The two sides exchanged in-depth views on the cooperation in livelihood projects in Gwadar Port which is located in Balochistan, Pakistan.

On January 16, the Forum on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Shenzhen•China) was held in Shenzhen, which was sponsored by Shenzhen Municipal Government and jointly hosted by Science and Technology Innovation Committee of Shenzhen Municipality, South University of Science and Technology of China and Shenzhen Urban Public Safety and Technology Institute. The former Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations and President of China International Public Relations Association Wu Hongbo attended the forum and delivered a speech. About 300 experts and scholars from international institutions, research institutes and industry associations attended the conference.

On January 17, Deputy Secretary General of China Association for International Understanding Zheng

Yao met with the delegation of leaders from Youth Association of World Federation of Trade Unions headed by the union president Michael Makwayiba in Beijing and introduced relevant situation of the work on the enhancement of connectivity among people all over the world in the "Belt and Road" initiative. The two sides exchanged views on topics such as strengthening cooperation between Chinese and foreign civil society organizations.

On January 17, President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs and President of the United Nations Association of China Wu Hailong met with the United Nations Coordinator in China Luo Shili and the representative of the United Nations Development Program in China Wen Jiejie. The two sides exchanged views on relations between China and the United Nations, the reform of UN and the enhancement of cooperation. Vice President and Director General of the United Nations Association of China Zhang Dan was present at the meeting.

On January 19, the "2019 China-Japan Friendship New Year Concert" was held in Beijing, which was hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. Vice President of the association Song Jingwu, Japanese Ambassador to China Yokoi Yutaka and his wife as well as President of KAWAI Piano Manufacturing Company Hiroataka Kawai attended the event. Nearly 400 people from different circles in the two countries attended the event, including heads of relevant department such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce, some members of the China-Japan Friendship Association, and representatives of Japanese companies in Beijing and news agencies.

From January 23 to 25, the Third Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific was held in Singapore. President of the United Nations Environment Assembly Siim Kiisler, Director of the UN Environment Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Dechen Tsering and environment ministers from Korea, Japan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and other

countries participated in the seminar and political consultation. The All-China Environment Federation sent representatives to the conference, which participated in events such as the policy proposals of the Asia Pacific civil society organizations and the high-level discussions of the forum.

On February 13, President of China Disabled Persons' Federation and Rehabilitation International Zhang Haidi met with President of Global Health Forum of Boao Forum for Asia Chen Feng Fuzhen and her colleagues in Beijing. Both sides exchanged in-depth views on health undertakings, disability prevention, and rehabilitation.

From February 14 to 17, at the invitation of the government of Australian Capital Territory, the Peace Angel Art Troupe of China Soong Ching Ling Foundation visited the Australian capital Canberra and attended the 23rd Australian National Multicultural Festival.

On February 15, Vice President of China Association for International Understanding Liu Hongcai met with President of Japan Genron NPO Yasushi Kudo in Beijing. The two sides exchanged views on the peaceful situation in Northeast Asia, the issue of Korean Peninsula as well as the situation of the region and the world.

On February 15, Pakistani President Arifur Rehman Alvi met with Vice Chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and President of China Foundation for Peace and development Gao Yunlong in Islamabad. The two sides exchanged views on the parliaments and people-to-people exchanges between two countries, and had in-depth discussion about building the Belt and Road and strengthening the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

From February 19 to 20, the China International Contractors Association, the Swedish Embassy in China and the Swedish Trade and Investment Council jointly organized several exchange activities between China and Swedish corporate.

From March 3 to 7, Vice President of China NGO Network for International Exchanges, Chairman of the Chinese Culture Promotion Society, and Honorary Chairman of the Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce Wang Shi and his colleagues went to Dubai to visit the Organizing Committee of Expo 2020 Dubai and negotiated cooperation with Senior Vice President of the Expo 2020 Organizing Committee for International Affairs Omar Shehadeh and Senior Manager of the Expo 2020 Organizing Committee for

International Affairs Raul Vina.

From March 4 to 11, at the invitation of Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, 12 people including leaders of peace organizations and security experts from Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan visited China. During the visit, Vice chairman of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament Yu Hongjun met with the delegation and Secretary General An Yuejun presided over the meeting. The delegation met with scholars from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and visited the Secretariat of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. In addition to Beijing, the delegation visited Guangzhou and Shenzhen and had a discussion with scholars from the Guangdong Institute for International Strategy.

On March 6, Vice president and Director General of the U.N. Association of China Zhang Dan met with the Development Counselor of the Norwegian Embassy in China Liya in Beijing. The two sides exchanged views on issues such as Sustainable Development Goals and cooperation enhancement.

From March 6 to 9, at the invitation of the Thai-Chinese Cultural and Economic Association, the Secretary General of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament An Yuejun led a delegation to visit Thailand. During the visit, they met with the former President of Thai National Assembly, former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and President of the Thai-Chinese Cultural and Economic Association Bhokin Bhalakula, the director of the Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center Sulasi Tanatong and the President of the National Defence College of Thailand Lieutenant General Gedrory Nikahan. In addition, they had conversation with institutions such as the Thai National Security Council, the Thai-Chinese Cultural and Economic Association, the Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center, and the Thammasat University.

On March 7, the Reception for Chinese and Foreign Women in Commemoration of the Anniversary of International Women's Day was held in Beijing. Vice Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee and Chairman of the All-China Women's Federation Shen Yueyue delivered a speech. Vice Chairman of the All-China Women's Federation and First Secretary of the Secretariat Huang Xiaowei hosted the reception. More than 1,000 people attended the event, including women from different circles in China such as female NPC representatives and CPPCC members, the national March 8 Red-Banner Pacesetters and other national advanced individuals as well as female

generals and academician in Beijing, and women from other countries such as foreign ambassadors to China, ambassadors' wife, female diplomats, representatives of international organizations in China, foreign female experts working in China and experts' wives.

On March 7, Deputy Secretary General of Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament Tao Tao met with the Namibian ambassador to China Elia Kaiyamo and his colleagues. The two sides exchanged views on strengthening people-to-people exchanges and issues of common concern.

On March 7, Director General of ACT Alliance Rudelmar Bueno de Faria and Director of the Asia Pacific Office Anoop Sukumaran and their colleagues visited the Amity Foundation. Chairman of the Amity Foundation Qiu Zhonghui, Secretary General Ling Chunxiang and Deputy Secretary General Qi Hongyu received them. Both sides had in-depth exchanges and discussions about their work.

On March 12, the Symposium of Humanitarian Assistance in Africa by Chinese, American and African NGOs, co-hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and Beijing Pinglan Public Welfare Foundation, was held in Beijing. The purpose of the symposium was to explore the mode of humanitarian assistance cooperation between Chinese and American non-governmental organizations in Africa, promote the participation of NGOs in public diplomacy, and further develop non-governmental cooperation between China and the USA. Nearly 40 representatives from 20 agencies attended the symposium, including Ji Yongjun, Deputy Director General of the Department of American & Oceanian Affairs, Li Liansheng, former Chinese ambassador to Eritrea and director of Beijing Pinglan Public Welfare Foundation, Liu Yawei, director of the Department of China Programs of the Carter Center, and other representatives of Chinese and American NGOs, experts, scholars and business representatives.

On March 19, the Lancang-Mekong Basin Economic Development Belt Think Tank Forum, co-hosted by the China Center for Contemporary World Studies of the International Department of the Central Committee of CPC, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences and Yunnan Academy of South East Asian and South Asian Studies, was held in Kunming, Yunnan Province. It is one of the Lancang-Mekong Week series activities under the mechanism of the 2nd Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting.

From March 19 to 20, the Lancang-Mekong Week poverty alleviation theme series activities were held in

Nanning, the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The event was co-hosted by the Comprehensive Department of Poverty Reduction Office of the State Council and the Poverty Reduction Office of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and undertaken by the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) and management Center of Guangxi Foreign Capital Poverty Reduction Projects. The theme is to share experience and deepen cooperation in poverty reduction in the Lancang River and the Mekong River. The activities included the East Asia Model Cooperative Technical Assistance Projects Promotion Meeting, the Lancang-Mekong Poverty Reduction Cooperation Seminar and poverty alleviation study tours. Over 60 representatives from the IPRCC, undertakers of the East Asia Model Cooperative Technical Assistance Projects, the Foreign Affairs Office of Guizhou Province, the Poverty Reduction Office of Guizhou Province, Guangxi Broadcasting System, LNTV, NBT and other domestic media, academic institutions and consulting institutions.

On March 20, Vice President Ai Ping met with Mohammed Saqib, Secretary General of India China Economic and Cultural Council. The two sides exchanged views on China-India relations and people-to-people exchanges.

On March 20, the third Mathematics Exchange Activities of Chinese and French Middle School Students was held simultaneously in China and France. Nearly 20,000 first-year high school students from 14 provinces and cities in China and 29 school districts in France participated in the activity. The event was jointly organized by the China Education Association for International Exchange and the French Embassy in China under the guidance of the Ministry of Education of the two countries.

From March 22 to 24, Tokyo World Conference on Women and the G20 Women's Conference was held in Tokyo, Japan. Deng Li, member of the standing committee of the National People's Congress, member of the Social Development Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress, member of the Party Group of All-China Women's Federation and Curator of China National Museum of Women and Children, led a Chinese women's delegation to attend the meeting and delivered a speech. About 2,000 delegates from political, business and academic circles and UN agencies attended the meeting.

On March 25, Liu Wenkui, Vice Chairman and Secretary General of China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation met with the delegation led by Bruce Knotts, Chairman of the Executive Committee of

the UN Civil Society. The two sides had in-depth exchanges and discussions on the platforms for the communication of civil societies, the development of global charity, the poverty alleviation industry in China, and the work and development of China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation.

On March 25, the Launch Ceremony of China Soong Ching Ling Foundation and AstraZeneca Charitable Fund was held in Beijing. Wang Jiarui, chairman of the China Soong Ching Ling Foundation (CSCLF), and Leif Johansson, chairman of the board of AstraZeneca. In the next three years, focusing on health poverty alleviation, assistance to patients, medical education, international exchanges and medical research, AstraZeneca will increase donations to CSCLF and be committed to promoting the national Health 2030 project.

On March 29, the 2019 ASEAN-China Governors/ Mayors' Dialogue co-hosted by the CPAFFC and the People's Government of Hainan Province in Boao, Hainan. Mr. Mao Chaofeng, Executive Vice Governor of Hainan province and Mrs. Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR government delivered keynote speeches respectively. Around 20 Governors or Mayors from Hainan, Guangzhou, Wuhan of China and Cambodia, Laos, Singapore, Thailand as well as Serbia, Sri Lanka participated in the dialogue and discussed on the topic of "ASEAN-China Connectivity and Hainan Free Trade Port".

From April 3 to April 4, a delegation led by Wang Jiarui, Chairman of the China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, visited Mongolia. Focusing on people-to-people friendship, cooperation of people's livelihood and people-to-people ties, the delegation enhanced communication with all social circles of Mongolia and people-to-people friendship of our two countries.

On April 8, Liu Hongcai, Vice President of Chinese Association for International Understanding, met the delegation headed by Takeaki Kamada, 2019 Chairman of Junior Chamber International Japan, and Yaichiro Aizawa, President of Japan-China Friendship Association. The two sides exchanged views on current China-Japan relations and people-to-people exchanges between the two nations.

On April 14, the opening ceremony of China-Japan Youth Exchange Promotion Year was held in Beijing by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Foreign Minister Taro Kono of Japan

jointly attended and addressed the opening ceremony. Kong Xuanyou, Vice Foreign Minister, and Yokoi Yutaka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to China, attended the event. Song Jingwu, Vice President of CPAFFC hosted the ceremony. Representatives from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, General Administration of Sport, National Forestry and Grassland Administration, Civil Aviation Administration of China and Song Ching Ling Foundation, and about 300 Chinese and Japanese university students attended the ceremony.

On April 16, Liu Kaiyang, Vice Secretary General of China NGO Network for International Exchanges, met with all campers of China-Myanmar "Beautiful Labor" Communication Group for Laborers in Chinese Trade Union Belt and Road cultural exchanges. The two sides exchanged views on strengthening exchanges and cooperation through non-governmental channels, deepening mutual understanding and trust, and jointly promoting the development of China-Myanmar economic corridor and the Belt and Road Initiative.

On April 18, Tan Weiping, deputy director of China International Center for Poverty Alleviation met with Sr. Gustavo Pacheco, director-general of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, and Primer Secretario Matías Benítez, First Secretary of Uruguay Embassy in China in Beijing. The two sides had in-depth discussions on deepening bilateral exchanges and cooperation in poverty reduction.

From April 19 to April 20, the 13th Ecological Civilization Global Forum was held in Claremont, the USA. Hu Kanping, director of the Department of Research and Communication of China Ecological Civilization Research and Promotion Association, attended and addressed the opening ceremony. The theme of this year's forum is Ecological Civilization and All-round Development for Human Beings. More than 160 delegates from China, the United States and some countries and regions in Europe and Asia participated in the forum.

From April 22 to April 28, Madam Zhang Dan, Vice-President & Director-General of United Nations Association of China, headed a working group to Finland and Norway for dialogues on UN issues. The working group held in-depth dialogues on upholding multilateralism, UN reforms, SDGs, development cooperation and climate change with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research

(UNU-WIDER), Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA), Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), UNA-Finland, and UNA-Norway. Broad consensus has been reached on such issues as upholding multilateral system with the UN at its core.

On April 26, Xu Jianguo, Secretary General of China Foundation for Peace and Development, met with Gambayar, Deputy Minister of Education of Mongolia and Ulan Bator Khankaerdi Association. The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on cooperation on livelihood projects in Mongolia.

On May 4, the World Heritage Canal Ancient Town Cultural Tourism Industry and Financial Capital Cooperation Meeting, co-hosted by People's Government of Yangzhou, World Historic and Cultural Canal Cities Cooperation Organization and Jiangsu Culture Investment and Management Group co., Ltd, was held in Yangzhou. Focusing on the theme of Green Development and Joint Construction, the meeting shared the experience of canal ancient towns and promoted the innovative development of cultural and tourism industry of world heritage canal ancient towns.

On May 8, the China-US Women's Dialogue, co-hosted by Beijing Women's International Exchange Center, Beijing Sodality of Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Overseas Female Compatriots and Association of Female Professors in the Capital, was held in Beijing.

On May 9, Hang Yuanxiang, executive vice chairman of China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, met with Mayinton, Myanmar Association of Protecting, Caring and Preventing Abandoned Children. The two sides had in-depth exchanges on further strengthening exchanges and cooperation, working together to improve the welfare and rights of women and children, and making contributions to carrying forward China-Myanmar friendship and promoting cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

On May 9, the 2019 Czech - Chinese Enterprises Investment and Trade Fair, which was co-hosted by China Federation of Overseas Chinese Entrepreneurs and Czech Chinese Youth Federation, was held in Prague. Xu Jinsong, office director of the Chinese embassy in Czech, Qi Yun, vice chairman of Bank of China Prague Branch, leaders of over 20 Chinese merchants organizations and delegation of China Federation of Overseas Chinese Entrepreneurs attended the event.

On May 12, Belt and Road Forum for International

Cooperation in Poverty Reduction co-hosted by Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, State Council Poverty Alleviation Office, Shaanxi Provincial People's Government and Jiangsu Provincial People's Government was held in Xi'an. Over 300 Chinese and foreign guests attended the opening ceremony, including Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Yim Chhay Ly, Hu Heping, Secretary of the CPC Shaanxi Provincial Committee and Director of the Standing Committee of the Shaanxi Provincial People's Congress, He Rong, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Shaanxi Provincial Committee and Guo Yezhou, Vice Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee.

On May 13, China-Israel Higher Education Seminar and China Higher Education Exhibition jointly organized by China Education Association for International Exchange and Israel Higher Education Commission was held in Jerusalem, Israel. This event aims to promote pragmatic cooperation between universities and colleges in research and innovation and student mobility. Delegates from 27 Chinese universities including Peking University, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Southeast University, and several delegates from seven Israeli universities attended the conference.

On May 15, 2019 Global Poverty Reduction Partner Seminar was held in Rome, Italy. This seminar was co-organized by five organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the China International Poverty Reduction Center and the China Internet News Center. Themed on "New Global Partnership through Sharing Knowledge: How to Promote Poverty Reduction and Achieve Zero Hunger by Technology Innovation", this event attracted more than 200 people from government departments, international organizations and private sectors.

On May 16, The Belt and Road Overseas Chinese Business Annual Meeting was hosted in Chongqing. This event was hosted by China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese and Chongqing Municipal Government, co-hosted by China Overseas Chinese Business Association and Institute of the Belt and Road of Tsinghua University Institute and Chongqing Overseas Chinese Federation. Over 200 overseas Chinese guests and delegates from 30 countries and regions attended the meeting.

On May 20, Tao Tao, deputy secretary general of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, met with Su Shi, the representative

of the American Friendship Service Committee in Beijing. The two sides exchanged views on exchanges and cooperation between the two organizations and conducted an in-depth discussion on co-hosting the 9th China-US Civil Peace Forum.

From May 20 to 23, Xu Jianguo, Secretary-General of the China Peace Development Foundation, led a delegation to visit the Afghan Red Crescent Society and had cordial talks with Acting President Ghazna Far. The signing ceremony for the material donation of the China Peace Development Foundation and the Afghan Red Crescent Society was held at the Chinese Embassy to Afghanistan. Under the agreement, the Foundation will donate \$120,000 worth of supplies to three refugee camps in Afghanistan. Wang Yajun, Vice Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, and Liu Jinsong, Chinese ambassador to Afghanistan, attended and witnessed the signing ceremony.

On May 22, the opening ceremony of the China-Latin America and Caribbean Countries Legal Talent Exchange Project Seminar hosted by China Law Society and co-hosted by the Shanghai Law Society and Shanghai University of Finance and Economics was held in Shanghai. Zhang Mingqi, vice president and secretary general of the Chinese Law Society, Ding Shan, Counsellor of the Latin American Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ignacio Concha, Consul General of Chile to Shanghai, attended the opening ceremony and delivered speeches. Argentine Consul General to Shanghai Opalo, Cuban Consul General to Shanghai Nestor Torres Oliveira, Brazilian Consul to Shanghai Pan Xin, Ecuadorian Consul General to Shanghai Mauricio Miranda Chavez and twenty students from 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as teachers and students from Shanghai University of Finance and Economics attended the opening ceremony.

On May 23, China-Greek University Presidents Forum, jointly organized by the China Education International Exchange Association and the University of Athens, was held in Athens. More than 70 university leaders and representatives from 40 Chinese universities and presidents from 15 local universities including the University of Athens, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, National Technical University of Athens, Athens Agricultural University, Piraeus University, Cretan Institute of Technology attended the meeting and expressed their views on cooperation between China and Greece in higher education.

From May 23 to 24, 2019 East Asian Peacekeeping Operations Forum jointly organized by the Mongolian

representative office of the German Albert Foundation and the General Staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The theme of the conference was “Recommendations for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Joint Commitment of UN Peacekeeping Operations”, involving issues such as empowerment, training and capacity building, force formation and deployment, equipment, performance, and constraints. A total of 30 military representatives, experts and scholars from the United Nations Association of China, Japan Global Construction Association, South Korean Army, Mongolian Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces General Staff and the United Nations Operation Support Department attended the event.

On May 24, Zhang Haidi, Chairman of the China Disabled Persons' Federation and Rehabilitation International, met with Mr. Joe Jim Burrell, Chairman of the International Social Security Association and Chairman of the German Trade Union on May 24. The two sides conducted in-depth exchanges on the development of the disabled and further cooperation.

On May 24 to 26, at the invitation of the New Zealand-China Friendship Association, Xie Yuan, Vice President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, visited New Zealand to attend the New Zealand-China Friendship Association Annual Meeting and made a keynote speech at the plenary session. Wu Hao, Chinese Ambassador to New Zealand, Rong Dawei, Chairman of the New Zealand-China Friendship Association, Ray Wallis, Mayor of Lower Hutt, Mike Tana, Mayor of Porirua, Tony Browne, Former New Zealand Ambassador and Chairman of the Confucius Institute at New Victoria University and Hiromi Morris, Chairman of the Sister Cities Association of New Zealand and other nearly one hundred representatives attended the annual meeting.

On May 28, Shen Yueyue, vice chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and chairperson of the All-China Women's Federation, met with Xia Li, president of the ASEAN Federation of Women Entrepreneurs and chairperson of the Thai Women Entrepreneurs Association. The two sides exchanged views on promoting friendship between the Chinese and Thai peoples and exchanges and cooperation between women in China and Thailand and ASEAN countries.