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## **A Friendly Visit for Exchanging Ideas, Understanding People's Wishes and Connecting People's Hearts: Sidelights on the Visit of H.E Ji Bingxuan, Deputy Chairman, Standing Committee of National People's Congress and President of CAFIU to Bangladesh, Singapore and Indonesia**

From 15 to 24 June 2019, at the invitation of National Assembly of Bangladesh, Parliament of Singapore and People's Consultative Assembly of Indonesia, H.E. Ji Bingxuan, Deputy Chairman, Standing Committee of National People's Congress and President, Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) led a CAFIU delegation and made friendly visits to the three countries in a bid to exchange ideas, understand people's wishes and connect people's hearts.

Bangladesh is located in the delta in the northeastern part of the sub-continent in South Asia, formed as a result of alluviation of Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers. It borders India to the east, west and north, connects Myanmar to the southeast, and faces Bay of Bengal to the south. Long associated with the ancient Silk Road, it was a pivotal stop along the ancient Southern Silk Road, which dates back to the pre-Qin period in the 4th Century BC. In the Tang and Song dynasties, the ancient road saw more frequent trade and personnel exchanges and reached more places in diverse routes. Some routes made it to modern Myanmar, from the upper stream of Irrawaddy River to Chindwin River and Naga Hills, reaching Assam in modern India, while some extended from Yunnan in China, moved further along Shweli River and Irrawaddy River to Mandalay in modern Myanmar, crossed Arakan Yoma and reached Manipur and Indian plains in modern India. Whichever route is chosen, the Kingdom of Pundravardhana, roughly located near Rangpur or Pabna in modern Bangladesh,

was a must-visit place.

The shared bond between China and Bangladesh via the ancient Southern Silk Road becomes ever stronger with the development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Bangladesh sees huge development opportunities from the China-initiated BRI. As an important party to the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor, Bangladesh is also an important nodal point in BRI development in South Asia. It is also the first country in South Asia to sign an inter-governmental agreement on BRI cooperation with China. BRI thus figured prominently during the visit.

H.E. Ji Bingxuan met with H.E. Mme. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, Speaker of National Assembly of Bangladesh and H.E. Md. Fazle Rabbi Miah, Deputy Speaker of National Assembly of Bangladesh. Ji highlighted that the Chinese side attaches high importance to China-Bangladesh relations, sees Bangladesh as an important cooperative partner



in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region, and stands ready to work with the Bangladeshi side in implementing the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries, further enhancing BRI cooperation, stepping up legislature exchanges and people-to-people contact and cementing mass support for development of bilateral relations, so as to take China-Bangladesh strategic cooperative partnership to new heights. The Bangladeshi side spoke highly of bilateral relations and bilateral cooperation under the BRI framework and expressed readiness to further strengthen across-the-board practical cooperation, enhance legislature exchanges and boost traditional friendship between the peoples for the wellbeing of people of the two countries. Chairman Ji Bingxuan presented to Speaker Chowdhury a piece of Chinese calligraphy, the Chinese character “Feng” (Phoenix) written by himself, expressing the wish that people-to-people friendship and connectivity could enable bilateral relations and BRI cooperation to fly higher.

H.E. Ji Bingxuan also attended the inauguration of the China-Bangladesh Friends of Silk Road Club and series of events under the Silk Road Community Building Initiative to be held in Bangladesh. The China-Bangladesh Silk Road Club is established to facilitate China-Bangladesh BRI cooperation and promote sound development of China-Bangladesh strategic cooperative partnership. It will organize events with extensive participation from governments, political parties, parliaments, media, think-tanks, civil society organizations, youth organizations, academia and students of the two countries. The series of events under the Silk Road Community Building Initiative to be held in Bangladesh focus on people-to-people exchanges and livelihood cooperation. In the next two years, under the initiative, 500 cooperative partnerships are to be formed with civil society organizations in the Belt and Road countries and 200 livelihood projects are to be implemented in developing countries along the Belt and Road. The initiative has been listed on the outcomes of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. Deputy Speaker Fazle stressed at the inauguration that the BRI brings shared interests to China and



Bangladesh in various sectors and contributes to sustainable development, shared prosperity and common development. He commended that China, a responsible major country, has played a constructive role in promoting world economic development and handling international affairs, and a positive role in enhancing people-to-people exchanges and concrete cooperation and facilitating extensive dialogues. He highlighted that Bangladesh attaches high importance to BRI development and hopes to take an active part in it by conducting across-the-board cooperation with China under the BRI framework.

H.E. Ji Bingxuan emphasized in his address that traditional friendship between China and Bangladesh dates back over 2000 years when people of the two countries started building economic and trade links and conducting people-to-people exchanges with one another along the ancient Southern Silk Road and Maritime Silk Road. He stressed that the BRI put forth by Chinese President H.E. Xi Jinping is aimed to enhance connectivity and concrete cooperation, address risks and challenges of global nature in concerted efforts and achieve mutually-beneficial

cooperation and shared development. He noted that Bangladesh has been actively supporting and taking part in Belt and Road cooperation, and thanks to joint efforts, bilateral cooperation under the BRI framework has been expanding with more tangible outcomes. He called for more extensive people-to-people exchanges and livelihood cooperation with the inauguration of the series of events to be held under the Silk Road Community Building Initiative and the Friends of Silk Road Club as a new starting point so that people of the two countries will work together to promote and share outcomes of people-to-people connectivity, and cement public support for China-Bangladesh friendship.

Singapore is located at the southern tip of Malayan Peninsula and the entry point of Strait of Malacca. It borders Malaysia to the north across Strait of Johor and faces Indonesia to the south across the Singapore Strait. It is a tropical city state consisting of Singapore Island and 63 adjacent islets. With an area of 724.4 square kilometers and a population of 5.64 million, it is a small country and is used to calling itself “a little red dot on the map”. This “little red dot”, nevertheless, plays an important role in geopolitics in Asia, particularly in Southeast Asia. Recent years have seen frequent exchanges between Singapore and China. In April 2019, H.E. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore attended the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and inauguration of the

International Horticultural Exhibition 2019, Beijing, and H.E. Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore attended the 7th Singapore-China Forum on Leadership. In May 2019, H.E. Halimah Yacob, President of Singapore attended the first Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations in Beijing and H.E. Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of Singapore attended Pujiang Innovation Forum and 1st Singapore-Shanghai Comprehensive Cooperation Council Meeting.

During the visit in Singapore, H.E. Ji Bingxuan met with H.E. Goh Chok Tong, Senior Minister and Former Prime Minister, H.E. Lim Biow Chuan, Deputy Speaker of Parliament and Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth. Ji highlighted in the meetings that the Chinese side attaches high importance to China-Singapore relations and stands ready to work with the Singaporean side to implement consensus reached by leaders of the two countries, further enhance political mutual trust, jointly promote BRI cooperation, deepen legislature exchanges and people-to-people contact, so as to take forward China-Singapore relations in keeping with the times. The Singaporean side spoke highly of bilateral relations and expressed readiness to continue to deepen cooperation on connectivity, investment and finance under the BRI framework and step up people-to-people exchanges, thereby making a contribution to shared development of the two countries and the region beyond.

The delegation also paid a visit to the headquarter of People’s Association, and exchanged views on how grassroots civil society organizations’ involvement in national governance. Besides, the delegation held discussions on exchanges and mutual learning between civilizations and promoting peace and cooperation at the Seminar on Exchanges and Mutual Learning between China and Singapore jointly hosted by





civil society organizations and think-tanks of the two countries. The delegation also visited Asian Civilizations Museum and local communities for an understanding of integration between ethnic groups.

Indonesia, the largest archipelago country in the world, consists of 17,508 islands and islets sprawling between the Pacific and the Indian Ocean. It is the fourth largest country in the world, with a land mass of around 1.904 million square kilometers, an ocean area of around 3.166 million square kilometers, a population of 262 million and several hundred ethnic groups.

During the visit in Indonesia, H.E. Ji Bingxuan met separately with H.E. Zulkifli Hasan, Speaker of People's Consultative Assembly of Indonesia, H.E. Utut Adianto, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia and Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono X, Governor of the modern Yogyakarta Special Region. Ji stressed in the meetings that China and Indonesia, as big developing countries, have extensive common interests and are thus natural partners, and the Chinese side stands ready to work with the Indonesian side to implement consensus reached by heads of state of the two countries, deepen BRI cooperation, strengthen legislature exchanges and people-to-people contact and promote people-to-people connectivity for the wellbeing of the people of the two countries. The Indonesian side spoke highly of bilateral relations and expressed readiness to step up across-the-board mutually beneficial cooperation for shared development and progress by jointly promoting BRI cooperation with the Chinese side.

H.E. Ji Bingxuan attended and addressed the inauguration of the series of events under the Silk Road Community Building Initiative to be held in Indonesia. He said that the events are aimed to



boost exchanges and cooperation between civil society organizations of the two countries, build new platforms for and lend new impetus to people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. He called for more active efforts of civil society organizations to contribute to social-economic development and building a community with a shared future for mankind. Indonesia said at the ceremony that the Indonesian side highly appreciates and takes an active in China-initiated BRI cooperation, and stands ready to step up BRI cooperation with the Chinese side for the wellbeing of the people of the two countries. H.E. Ji Bingxuan and Nono Sampono inaugurated the event, after which nearly 50 civil society organizations of the two countries conducted one-on-one meetings with one another on stepping up people-to-people exchanges and livelihood cooperation and many reached intent of cooperation at the match-making session between civil society organizations of the two countries.

Ten day's visit of packed schedule bears fruitful results, sending messages of friendship and sharing ideas and experience through meetings and discussions, and reaching much consensus on stepping up people-to-people exchange and cooperation for promoting people-to-people connectivity along the Belt and Road.

(Translated by Jin Yan)

## **A Friendly Visit across Europe, Asia and Africa: Sidelights on the Visit of H.E. Ji Bingxuan to the Republic of Congo, Portugal and Tanzania**

The visit to three countries took 10 days and nights via 8 flights. From 11 to 20 December, a fifteen-member delegation led by H.E. Ji Bingxuan, Deputy Chairman, Standing Committee of National People's Congress and President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) visited the Republic of Congo, Portugal and Tanzania, sending messages of friendship to people of the three countries and writing a new chapter of people-

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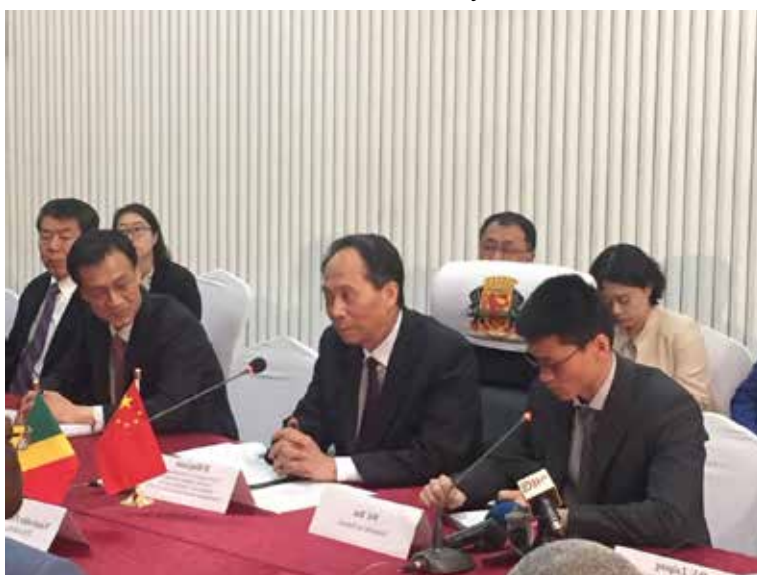
### **Feeling Warmth and Hospitality Everywhere**

Before dawn on December 11, the delegation took the flight from Beijing and

finally reached the Republic of Congo in the central part of Africa after 22 hours of flight, with a transfer in Paris and a stopover at Kinshasa.

The turbulent Congo River nourishes the two countries along its banks. It separates the Republic of Congo from scorching heat, scourges of war and diseases, making the country a land of peace and tranquility rarely seen in Africa. Though the country is not rich, Brazzaville, its capital, is a place

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presents itself completely to the delegation, making it irresistible for people coming from afar.

The Republic of Congo is among the first to establish diplomatic ties with China, and has long been committed to friendly relations with China. The Government of the Republic of Congo attached high importance to the visit. H.E. Pierre Ngolo, Secretary General of the Congolese Labor Party and President of the Senate, H.E. Isidore Mvouba, Speaker of the National Assembly and H.E. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo met with the delegation one after another.

During meetings, H.E. Ji Bingxuan said that since the establishment of diplomatic ties 55 years ago, China and the Republic of Congo have always treated each other with respect, equality and sincerity. Leaders of the two countries elevated bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership in 2016, pointing out the way forward and drawing up the blueprint for sustained development of bilateral friendship and cooperation. He further stated that the Chinese side stands ready to further carry out the outcomes of FOCAC Beijing Summit and the important consensus reached by heads of state of the two countries, and work with the Congolese side in joint efforts to build a closer China-Africa community with a shared future for mankind. The Congolese side said that bilateral relations are very cordial. A friend in need is a friend indeed. China is a true friend of the Republic of Congo. The two countries have enjoyed time-honored friendship. The Congolese side is grateful for the precious support offered by the Chinese side for a long time, and is willing to step up exchanges and cooperation across the board with the Chinese side for the wellbeing of people of the two countries.

On the last day of visit in the Republic of Congo, the inauguration of the series of events under the Silk Road Community Building Initiative to be held

in the Republic of Congo was held in Brazzaville, witnessed by Deputy Chairman Ji Bingxuan and Leon Alfred Opimba, First vice-president of the National Assembly of Congo. This is the first stop of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Africa. H.E. Ji Bingxuan and H.E. Leon Alfred Opimba inaugurated the event. At the inauguration, China NGO Network for International Exchanges, China Foundation for Disabled Persons, Shanghai Overseas Chinese Foundation and Hubei-based Future Group separately signed MOUs with partners from the Congolese side, reaching preliminary intent of cooperation between civil society organizations in such areas as poverty alleviation, health and education.

During their stay in the Republic of Congo, the delegation also visited China-assisted new parliament building project and the Sino-Congolese Bank for Africa, and held discussions with representatives of Chinese companies.

### **Connecting the Two Ends of Eurasia**

Another 13-hour flight took the delegation to the second stop – Portugal, after wrapping up the visit in the Republic of Congo.

Portugal is the starting point of the great maritime discovery and hometown of famous voyagers Bartolomeu Dias and Vasco da Gama. In 1488, Portuguese Bartolomeu Dias visited the Cape of Good Hope, the most southern tip of Africa for the first time. Ten years later, Vasco da Gama travelled further to India bypassing the Cape of Good Hope. In 1517, a Portuguese merchant named Andrade went to Guangzhou and started exchanges with Royal Court of the Ming Dynasty, which is seen as the beginning of contemporary China's engagement with Europe. Today, over 500 years later, the delegation visited Portugal with sincere hope to connect the eastern end of Asia and the western end of Europe.

Portugal is a nation of tradition and modernity. Firm beliefs of Catholicism make Portugal a country of traditional social customs, yet it is quite open-minded towards foreign culture. Every year, the number of foreign visitors Portugal receives exceeds its whole population. This inclusiveness is also shown in its foreign policy. While keeping friendly ties with its traditional allies in the West, Portugal has been actively developing friendly cooperation with China, Russia and countries across the world. Supporting the Belt and Road Initiative and Macao's smooth return to China are examples of China-Portugal friendship and cooperation.

2019 marks the 40th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Portugal. During the visit, Felipe, Vice-President of Assembly of the Republic of Portugal, member of Central Committee of Portuguese Communist Party and Carneiro, Assistant Secretary-General of Portugal's Socialist Party met with the delegation. During discussions with them, Ji Bingxuan highlighted that the two countries have seen ever-deepening political mutual trust, steady growth of bilateral trade and investment

and ever-closer people-to-people exchanges since the establishment of diplomatic ties 40 years ago, and the Chinese side stands ready to work with the Portuguese side with joint efforts to promote across-the-board cooperation for the wellbeing of the two countries and two peoples. The Portuguese side spoke highly of bilateral relations and expressed their firm support for China's "one country, two systems" policy, the Belt and Road Initiative, and stand ready to further exchanges and cooperation with the Chinese side on such areas as economy, trade, finance and people-to-people connectivity.

2019 also marks the 20th anniversary of Macao's return to China. Since its return 20 years ago, Macao has seen steady economic development, ever-improving quality of life, thorough implementation of the policies of "one country, two systems", "Macao people administering Macao" and a high degree of autonomy. Its achievements and progress have caught the world's attention. Proper handling of the Macao issue based on friendship and mutual trust between China and Portugal sets a good example for the international community. Smooth return and





transition of Macao enables China-Portugal relations to turn to a new page and bears witness to China-Portugal comprehensive strategic partnership.

Portugal has unique topographical strengths. It has higher elevation in the north and lower elevation in the south and plenty of mountains and hills, making it a place of abundant wind power and hydropower resources. There is huge scope for cooperation between the two countries on new energy development and use. The delegation made a visit to the R&D center jointly built by State Grid Corporation of China and Redes Energeticas Nacionais and held discussions on present and future of Chinese companies' business cooperation in Europe.

### **Traditional Friendship Gearing up**

Wrapping up the visit in Portugal, the delegation arrived in Dar-es-Salaam on the afternoon of December 17 and began visiting Tanzania.

Chinese are no strangers to Tanzania. The Tanzania-Zambia Railway Project, initiated 49 years ago, was

China's largest foreign assistance project then and remains the artery of transportation connecting Dar-es-Salaam and the southwestern border of Tanzania. Mount Kilimanjaro, the equatorial snow-capped mountain and the highest in Africa, is famous across the world. Three big lakes in Africa and the Great Rift Valley are also rare natural tourism landscapes in Tanzania.

First-time visitors to Tanzania tend to mistake Dar-es-Salaam for the capital. In fact, Parliament of Tanzania decided to move the capital to the inland town Dodoma 45 years ago. Still, Dar-es-Salaam remains the economic and cultural center and the largest city in Tanzania, and it is the principal destination for the delegation.

Tanzania is the largest receiver of Chinese assistance in Africa. Bilateral cooperation began in the 1960s, with Tanzania-Zambia Railway, Tanzania China-Friendships Co. Ltd (Urafiki) and Mubalali Farm as examples of traditional friendship between the two countries. 2019 marks the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China

and Tanzania. H.E. Job Yustino Ndugai, Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, Mr. Rodrick Mpogolo, Deputy Secretary General of CCM (Mainland) and Dr Abdalla Juma Saadala, Deputy Secretary General of CCM (Zanzibar) separately met with the delegation.

During bilateral talks, H.E. Ji Bingxuan stressed that China-Tanzania friendship, forged and nurtured by leaders of the older generation of the two countries, have stood the test of history and become ever more unbreakable and should be cherished ever more. He emphasized that the Chinese side will act on the principles of sincerity, practical results, affinity and good faith put forth by Chinese President H.E. Xi Jinping by deepening the Belt and Road cooperation with the Tanzanian side and strengthening exchanges between legislatures and people-to-people contact so as to write a new chapter of China-Tanzania friendship. The Tanzanian side highlighted that the two countries have long maintained friendly ties, and the Tanzanian side sees China as the most friendly country and trustworthy friend and would like to make full use of the opportunities offered by the Belt and Road Initiative to achieve national development with China's help.

During the visit in Tanzania, the inauguration of the series of events under the Silk Road Community Building Initiative to be held in Tanzania was held, attended by Deputy Chairman Ji Bingxuan and Job Yustino Ndugai, Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania and 150 participants from civil society organizations on both sides. Salim Ahmed Salim, former Prime Minister of Tanzania and receiver of China's Friendship Medal sent a written address for the event. This is the 8th stop under the Silk Road Community Building Initiative and the last event in 2019. H.E. Ji Bingxuan and H.E. Job

Yustino Ndugai inaugurated the event. Civil society organizations on both sides conducted in-depth discussions and exchanges during the event. China Foundation for Disabled Persons, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Beijing Sub-council, Peaceland Foundation, Beijing Volunteer Service Federation, Enlai Foundation and Shanghai Overseas Chinese Foundation separately signed MOUs with their Tanzanian partners, reaching initial intent of cooperation in such areas as health, poverty alleviation, economy and trade, volunteer service, assistance to the disabled and wildlife protection.

In a place 24 kilometers southwest of the downtown area of Dar-es-Salaam lies the Cemetery for Memorable Deceased Chinese Experts Assisting Tanzania, where 69 Chinese experts, technicians and workers who made the ultimate sacrifice for assisting Tanzania in its nation building endeavor were buried. The youngest among them was only 24. On the morning of December 18, the delegation came to the Cemetery to pay respects by sweeping the tombs and laying flowers for the Chinese resting in peace here. For national interests and friendship between the two countries, they left their youth and lives permanently on this ancient land. As two lines of a Chinese poem goes, loyal warriors may find peace in their graves wherever buried, so there is no need to take them home.

Ten days of visit, busy and short, soon came to an end. It is a visit of packed schedule and fruitful outcomes. The series of events inaugurated under the Silk Road Community Building Initiative begins from the visit and will continue to take roots and grow from strength to strength on the African continent.

(Translated by Jin Yan)

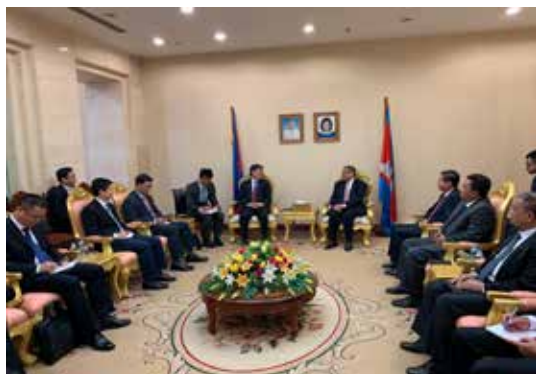


## On the Road for Friendship and Cooperation: Sidelights on the Visit of Liu Hongcai, Vice President of CAFIU to Russia, Japan and Cambodia

At the invitation of Civic Chamber of Russian Federation, Junior Chamber International Japan and Civil Society Alliance Forum, Cambodia, Liu Hongcai, Deputy Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Vice President of Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) and Former Vice Minister of International Department of Central Committee of Communist Party of China led a CAFIU delegation to visit the three countries from 19 to 26 September 2019.

During the visit in Moscow, the delegation held meetings with Valery Fadeyev, Secretary of Civic Chamber of Russian Federation, Sergey Ordzhonikidze, Deputy Secretary of Civic Chamber of Russian Federation and Ivan Melniko, First Vice Chairman of Communist Party of Russian

Federation, First Deputy Chairman of Russian State Duma and President of Russia-China Friendship Association on strengthening China-Russia people-to-people exchanges and cooperation and promoting people-to-people connectivity, held discussions with civil society organizations, including Alexander Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Fund, Institute of Far Eastern Studies of Russian Academy of Science and International Federation of Peace and Conciliation (Russia), on conducting in-depth practical cooperation, particularly participation in the Silk Road Community Building Initiative and dialogue between civilizations, and exchanged views with Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Far Eastern Studies and leading officials of international cooperation and tourism authorities in Vladivostok on promoting subnational civil society organization and people-to-people exchanges.



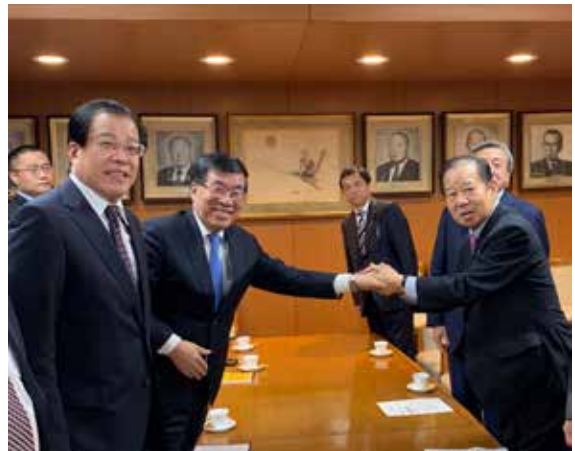


The delegation made the visit at the time China was preparing for celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The Russian side extended congratulations on the remarkable achievements in socio-economic development scored by the Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China since the founding of the PRC, particularly since reform and opening up began 40 years ago, and hoped to learn from China's effort and experience in target poverty alleviation.

The delegation came across Galina Kulikova, receiver of Friendship Medal of the PRC and First Vice Chairman of Russia-China Friendship Association. Though in her 80s, she was still energetic, expressed her excitement for the upcoming visit to Beijing to attend the celebrations for the 70th anniversary of PRC's founding and receive the Friendship Medal, extended her congratulations to the extraordinary achievements made by the Chinese government and Chinese people, about which she truly felt happy, and expressed her wish to continue to work for enhancing Russia-China friendship.

Besides, the delegation also visited Vladivostok, a city in Russia's Far East, where discussions were held with local government authorities and civil society organizations. The Russian side expressed keen desire to step up subnational people-to-people exchanges and cooperation, particularly between China's Northeast and Russia's Far East.

During the visit in Japan, the delegations held talks with Toshihiro Nikai, Secretary-General of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, Ogata Yasuo, Vice Chairman of the Communist Party of Japan (CPJ), Mataichi Seiji, Secretary General of Japan's Social Democratic Party, Akihiro Ota, former leader of Japan's New Komeito Party and MPs for an exchange of views on how to better leverage traditional strength of civil society in promoting development of bilateral relations, and discussed



with leaders of Junior Chamber International Japan, Japan-China Society, Japan-China Association for the 21st Century, Kazankai Foundation of Japan, Tokyo Japan-China Friendship Association and NPO Genron NPO Japan on further promoting China-Japan people-to-people friendship and enhancing mutual understanding for development of bilateral relations.

CAFIU has a long history and rich experience in working for China-Japan people-to-people friendship, making many good old friends along the way. During the 3-day stay in Tokyo, the delegation had a very tight schedule, shuttling between some 15 formal and informal meetings and discussions. The delegation members were either in a meeting or on the way to a meeting every day. There were always endless things to say in each meeting with old friends, with each side feeling excited and having high expectations about China-Japan relations of a new era, and coming up with ideas for further promoting traditional friendship and contributing to development of bilateral relations.

To everyone's delight, in particular, the delegations saw China-Japan people-to-people friendship pass on from one generation to another. Saionji Kazuteru, son of Saionji Kinkazu, pioneer of China-Japan people-to-people diplomacy and nicknamed Ambassador of China-Japan people-to-people friendship, whose

words have appeared on People's Daily for 16 times, has long been active in the frontline for China-Japan friendship and now serves as Vice President of Tokyo Japan-China Friendship Association. During bilateral talks, he recalled fondly the days in China and blurted out standard Mandarin Chinese, saying that he would carry on the cause of China-Japan friendship. Utsunomiya Tokuichiro, grandson of Utsunomiya Tokuma, a famous figure for promoting Japan-China friendship and peace-loving politician, now in his 30s, is President of Tokyo Japan-China Friendship Association. He said that he would take promoting Japan-China friendship as his own cause and strive to make people-to-people exchanges and cooperation between the two countries a more energetic and promising cause.

During the visit in Cambodia, the delegation held discussions with H.E. Yim Chhayly, Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia, H.E. Tep Ngorn, Second Vice President of Senate of Cambodia, Chea Kim, Vice Chairman of Committee on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Propaganda and Information of Senate of Cambodia, Suos Yara, Member of Central Committee of Cambodian People's Party (CPP), Vice Chairman of Central Commission for Foreign Affairs of CPP and MP, and Kemreat Viseth, President of Civil Society Alliance Forum (Cambodia). The Cambodian side spoke highly of the cooperation outcomes under the framework of China-Cambodia comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and highly appreciated China's support and assistance for Cambodian socio-economic development. The two sides exchanged views on strengthening people-to-people exchanges and enhancing people-to-people connectivity under the Belt and Road cooperation framework for further improvement of bilateral comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and public support for China-Cambodia friendship, and

reached extensive consensus on promoting concrete cooperation between civil society organizations of the two countries.

NGOs in Cambodia are keen to cooperate with counterparts in China and have made solid moves in this regard. Civil Society Alliance Forum (Cambodia) is an umbrella organization in charge of coordinating Cambodian civil society organizations in exchanges and cooperation. Inspired by China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), the Civil Society Alliance Forum (Cambodia) was thus established, drawing upon the experience of CNIE. President Kemreat Viseth expressed the hope for more cooperation with Chinese civil society organizations in community building and livelihood projects, which will not only contribute to social development and serve the public, but also facilitate the sharing of experience and assist each other in improving capacity for organizing international events, thus enabling one another to play a more important role in the international arena.

Besides, the delegation also visited Cambodia Office of China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD) and held discussions there, after which the delegation went to the CFPD-assisted China-Cambodia Friendship Central Hospital, where the Director of the Hospital gave a briefing on the source of development of the Hospital, gladly informed the delegation that this is the best hospital within 50 kilometers, offering quality medical service to numerous patients every year, and stressed that the Hospital that treats and comforts local people has become a symbol of China-Cambodia friendship.

Ten day's visit, a journey for deeper friendship, has built up strength for closer cooperation and added a light color for a better future of people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

(Translated by Jin Yan)

## **Forge Ahead for People-to-People Friendship and Exchanges: Sidelights on the Visit of Ai Ping, Vice President of Chinese Association for International Understanding to Serbia, Croatia and India**

At the invitation of the Faculty of Security Studies, University of Belgrade of Serbia, Croatia-China Friendship Association and India China Economic and Cultural Council, Ai Ping, Vice President of Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) and former Vice Minister of International Department of Central Committee of Communist Party of China led a CAFIU delegation visiting the three countries from 21 to 30 October 2019.

During the visit in Serbia, the delegation held discussions with Tomislav Nikolic, former Serbian President and current President of the National Council for Coordination with Russia and China, Žarko Obradović, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee, National Assembly of Serbia and Vice President of Socialist Party of Serbia and Dr. Vladimir N. Cvetković, Dean of Faculty of Security Studies, University of Belgrade on strengthening people-to-people exchanges and cooperation and promoting people-to-people connectivity between the two countries, conducted exchanges with heads of some civil society organizations and think-tanks, including Institute of International Politics and Economics

of Serbia and the Belt and Road Research Center, University of Novi Sad, on strengthening practical cooperation, in particular, work relating to activities under the Silk Road Community Building Initiative and dialogue between civilizations, exchanged views with officials of Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government of Serbia on promoting civil society organization exchanges and people-to-people connectivity between the two countries, and held meetings with China Road and Bridge Corporation and other Chinese companies in Serbia for an exchange on their efforts to carry out livelihood projects and promote people-to-people





connectivity in Serbia.

The Serbian side spoke highly of bilateral relations and expressed readiness to further bilateral cooperation. Serbia-China friendly relations dates back to the era of Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Serbian side said, recalling that Yugoslavia had close cooperation with China with the strong support of Josip Broz Tito. Though times have changed, the underlying principle of bilateral friendship remains unchanged. Despite differences at times between Serbian political parties, there is a cross-party consensus on development of relations with China, support for Serbia-China friendship and readiness to enhance cooperation with China, which is a more positive stance compared with that of other European countries. Serbia supports the China model of cooperation on the basis of equality under the Belt and Road Initiative for advancing economic globalization, which is different from the model promoted by the US-led West.

During the visit in Croatia, the delegation exchanged views with former Croatian President Stjepan Mesić on implementing the Belt and Road Initiative, China-CEEC cooperation and deepening friendly relations between the two countries, and held discussions with over 30 representatives of Croatia-China Friendship

Association and other civil society organizations on how to further promote civil society organization exchanges and cooperation and people-to-people connectivity between the two countries.

The Croatian side spoke highly of bilateral relations and expressed readiness to advance across-the-board cooperation with China. A recent poll shows that majority of Croatians believes that President Xi Jinping is the most influential leader in the world, the Croatian side highlighted, indicating that Croatia-China friendship has extensive social and public support in Croatia. Senior leaders of the Serbian Government are committed to strengthening bilateral ties, and hope to open up wider to China for more cooperation. The Croatian side stands ready to support development of the Belt and Road Initiative and 17+1 cooperation under the Initiative. Former Croatian President Stjepan Mesić said that the Belt and Road is not just an extension of the ancient Silk Road, but an initiative that connects the world. He believed that the Belt and Road cooperation will benefit the world, including Croatia. He mentioned that Chinese companies in Croatia are very popular among the Croatian people and hoped that more Chinese companies could invest in infrastructure projects in Croatia and conduct mutually beneficial





cooperation with the Croatian side.

During the visit in India, the delegation held talks with Ram Madhav, National General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Jairam Ramesh, leader of the Indian National Congress, Basu, Member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Sengupta, Head of the International Department of the Communist Party of India and members of Parliament on such topics as how to effectively implement the outcomes of Chennai Informal Summit, how to promote connectivity between the two countries and exchanges and mutual learning between civilizations. The delegation also held discussions with Dr. Mohammed Saqib, Secretary General of India China Economic and Cultural Council, Samir Saran, Chairman of the Observer Research Foundation, Dr. Varun Sahai, Vice Chancellor of Goa University and Ramakant Khalap, former Deputy Chief Minister of Goa, and held a dialogue between civilizations separately in Delhi and Goa University, during which the two sides conducted in-depth exchanges on China-India inter-civilization dialogue, enhancing people-to-people exchanges and cooperation and joint efforts

to achieve civilizational revival and improve global governance system.

The delegation visited India shortly after the 2nd Informal Summit in Chennai between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the significance of which the Indian side spoke highly of. An important part of the Informal Summit was civilizational dialogue and exchanges between the two countries. The delegation thus held dialogues between civilizations during the visit in

a bid to implement the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries and enhance inter-civilization dialogue and exchanges between the two countries from the civil society perspective, and give a rebuttal to the so-called theory of clash of civilizations. The discussions served to contribute to the improvement of bilateral ties and deeper understanding between the two peoples. The Indian side positively responded and put forth suggestions that the two countries should enhance exchanges and cooperation at all levels and in various fields and particularly, more efforts should be made to introduce China and Chinese culture to India and more Chinese students should be encouraged to study in India so that consensus of cooperation reached at the highest level could be extended to the civil society.

The visits to Serbia, Croatia and India meet the goal of promoting people-to-people friendship and exchanges with the three countries and lays a sound basis for concrete people-to-people cooperation with the three countries in the days to come.

(Translated by Jin Yan)



# **Build the Bridge of People-to-People Exchanges and Cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European Countries: Sidelights on Visit of the Delegation of China NGO Network for International Exchanges to the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania**

September in golden autumn symbolizes harvest and hope. At the invitation of the New Silk Road Institute, Prague of the Czech Republic, Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary and Romania-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mme. Xu Lyuping, Vice President of China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and Former Vice Minister of International Department of Central Committee of Communist Party of China made a successful visit to the three countries from September 16 to 25, marking a new chapter in people-to-people exchanges and cooperation between CNIE and Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC).

## **A Visit to Carry Forward Friendship**

Beautiful Prague, an old city brimming with vitality, is the place where historical traditions and commercial civilization meet and interact. At the street corner, an old man was eagerly awaiting. He is Mr. Jaromir Slapota, President of the Czechslovak Foreign Institute (CFI). Despite his old age, he insisted on welcoming the CNIE delegation at the entrance to the center, extending deep and warm greetings of Czech friends to the delegation as they

set foot on the foreign land.

The Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania are among the first group of nations recognizing the People's Republic of China (PRC), and have time-honored friendly relations with China. The CNIE delegation was visiting the countries at a time when we were celebrating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the PRC and the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and the three countries. Wherever the delegation went in the three countries, they were welcomed with warm and cordial greetings.

Vice President Xu Lyuping conveyed the aspiration



of CNIE and Chinese civil organizations to enhance cooperation and exchanges with the three countries for development of bilateral relations in the new era, gave a briefing on the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, particularly the cooperation outcomes at the people-to-people connectivity panel, and made a detailed introduction to the Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and China's development achievements over the past seven decades. She highlighted that friendship, which derives from close contact between the people, holds the key to sound state-to-state relations. In the new era in history, the Chinese side wishes to further act upon the consensus reached by leaders of China and the relevant countries by taking people-to-people exchanges to a new level and cementing the social basis and improve the public opinion environment for enhanced friendship between China and relevant countries.

The civil society in the three countries responded positively to Vice President Xu's briefing and suggestions. They spoke highly of China's development achievements over the past seven decades and wished to deepen friendly relations with China through Belt and Road cooperation in the new era in history. Former Prime Minister of Romania Petre Roman and others all highlighted that the Chinese nation is a proud and great nation; it has not only created a miracle of its own development, but also put forth the Belt and Road Initiative and the idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind for sharing development outcomes with people from other countries. They stressed that CEEC have great expectations for cooperation with China and believe that Belt and Road development will surely present opportunities for countries to achieve their own development. Before the delegation left,

Mr. Slapota held Vice President Xu's hands tightly and said that despite some noise on the development of China-Czech relations in the Czech Republic, he firmly believes that China-Czech friendship will emerge stronger, as small clouds cannot hide the sun.

### **A Visit to Break New Ground**

The serene Danube divides Budapest, capital of Hungary, into two parts. Right along the bank of the Danube situates the magnificent Hungarian House of Parliament, where Mme. Márta Mátrai, First Officer of National Assembly of Hungary met with the delegation and had a joyous discussion with Vice President Xu. She walked Vice President Xu to the balcony of the building to get a distant view of the beautiful scenery across the Danube. She hoped to see Mme. Xu again in the beautiful season and sincerely wished greater progress in cooperation between civil society organizations of China and Hungary.

This is the first time for CNIE to visit the three countries. With the purpose of making more friends and doing more in-depth research in mind, the delegation packed the schedule with meetings with political dignitaries, former political dignitaries and representatives from the civil society, business community and think tanks, during which the delegation gave detailed briefings on development of CNIE and civil society organizations in China and



conveyed the sincere wish to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with counterparts in the three countries. The delegation also made field visits and did in-depth research for better understanding of the civil society organizations, government's management approach and intent of cooperation in the three countries, laying a sound foundation for people-to-people exchanges and cooperation between China and CEEC, including the three countries.

Vice President Xu stressed during the meetings that Chinese civil society organizations, supported by the Communist Party of China and the Chinese Government, have been developing fast and playing an increasingly important role in the Chinese society. She highlighted that Chinese social organizations stands ready to step up exchanges and cooperation with counterparts across the world for world peace, development and human well-being. She further conveyed the wish that CNIE, as the largest NGO umbrella organization in China, stands ready to contribute actively to Chinese social organizations' participation in international exchanges and cooperation in the joint effort to build a better world.

The civil society in the three countries spoke highly of and responded positively to Xu's remarks. The President of Czech-China Friendship Group of the National Assembly said that there are now four direct flights between China and the Czech Republic, which greatly facilitates mutual visits and creates conditions for people-to-people exchanges and cooperation. Going forward, he believed that the potential for bilateral cooperation will be further unlocked and there is huge scope for bilateral cooperation across the board, including people-to-people exchanges. Former Prime Minister of Hungary Péter Medgyessy affirmed the importance of people-to-people exchanges and cooperation to the development of state-to-state relations, and put forth suggestions on

how to further and substantiate people-to-people connectivity, including enhanced cooperation with the Chinese side in such areas as education, health, science and technology, environmental protection and traditional Chinese medicine. Czechslovak Foreign Institute, Czech-Chinese Centre of the Charles University of Prague, Romania-China Cultural Exchange Association, and many other organizations expressed intent of cooperation and came up with ideas for some concrete cooperation projects during the meetings.

### **A Visit to Enhance Pragmatic Cooperation**

On September 23, the renowned Ghica Palace in Bucharest, Romania was thoughtfully decorated with aromatic flowers, among which a floral display shaped in a five-star red flag was particularly eye-catching, where people stopped to appreciate and take photos with it. This is the place where the grand ceremony of the inauguration of a host of events to be held in Romania related to the Silk Road Community Building Initiative. Vice President Xu, Chinese Ambassador to Romania Jiang Yu and Niculae Bădălău, Minister of Economy of Romania attended the event and addressed the audience of around 70 people, including Former Prime Minister of Romania Petre Roman and Prof. Valeriu Tabara, President of the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences of Romania. There was warm applause when Vice President Xu and other dignitaries together inaugurated the host of events to be held in Romania.

The Silk Road Community Building Initiative was inaugurated at the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in April 2019, with a focus on people-to-people exchanges and livelihood cooperation. Under the Initiative, it is planned that 500 cooperative partnerships with civil society organizations in Belt and Road countries will be established and 200 livelihood projects will



be implemented in developing countries along the Belt and Road in a two-year timeframe. Events under the Initiative have been launched in Mongolia, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Pakistan.

During the visit to the three countries, seminars on the Belt and Road cooperation and people-to-people connectivity between China and the Czech Republic, China and Hungary and China and Romania were held separately. Over 40 people, including former Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Jiří Paroubek and the State Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office attended and addressed the seminar in the Czech Republic. Over 50 people from the civil society in Hungary, including Hungary-China Friendship Society, Political Capital Institute, Pallas Athene Geopolitical Research Institute and

the United Association of Overseas Chinese in Romania attended the seminar in Hungary. Over 50 people from the civil society in Romania, including Bucharest Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Romania-China Cultural Exchange Association, and Federation of Romanian Chinese, attended the seminar in Romania. As anticipated, these events saw heated discussions and interactions among participants, who gave briefings on their areas of expertise, promoted practical cooperation and reached intent of cooperation in some areas.

During the visit, Beijing and Gansu Province-based social organizations took part in important discussions in Hungary and Romania, gave full play to their unique strengths and made positive outcomes. At the inauguration of the host of events to be held in Romania under the Silk Road Community Building Initiative, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Beijing Sub-council, Beijing Foreign Studies University and Beijing Chapter of CNIE separately signed cooperation agreements with Romania-China Chamber of Industry and Commerce and Federation of Romanian Chinese.

(Translated by Jin Yan)

**[Editor's Note]** On November 28, the First Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilizations organized by the Chinese Association for International Understanding was staged in the Forbidden City. Some 100 participants from all over the world were present at the Dialogue. Participants made discussions themed on “building a world featuring mutual learning and harmonious coexistence among different civilizations”. Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chairman of Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding attended the opening ceremony and delivered a keynote speech.

## **Strengthen Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilizations, Join Hands to Create a Better Future: Keynote speech of H.E. Ji Bingxuan on the Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilizations**

It's a great pleasure to gather with all of you in Beijing for discussing exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations in an effort to join hands to create a better future. First, I'd like to, on behalf of the Chinese Association for International Understanding, extend our warm welcome and sincere appreciation to all our guests.

With the theme of “building a world featuring mutual learning and harmonious coexistence among different civilizations”, this Dialogue is of great practical significance.

History has repeatedly demonstrated that as long as mutual learning among civilizations is carried out well, the world would keep prosperous and be in progress. If mutual learning is hindered, or even misunderstanding or confrontation occurs among civilizations, people would be plunged into misery



and suffering. The occurring of various disasters and extremist phenomena, be it the ancient Crusades, Thirty Years' War in ancient times, the Nazism in World War II and the Cold War, as well as the populism, extremism and terrorism nowadays, are not only of deep-seated political, economic and religious reasons, but also of close relationship with lacking of trust among civilizations. The lessons we



can draw from history are: we should embrace with exchanges, mutual learning and coexistence among civilizations, instead of estrangement, confrontation or superiority—only by this, can we maintain world peace and stability, as well as create a better future for mankind.

The world is undergoing changes unseen in a century, and our choices will determine our future. However, there are always some people in the world, ignorant of historical lessons and experience, view the world with a paranoid and zero-sum thinking, in an effort to assume the air of self-importance or impose their will on others by denying the diversity of civilizations, exaggerating the differences among civilizations, or advocating confrontation among civilizations. Recent years witness the rebounding of views incompatible with the trend of human progress such as the theories of clash of civilizations and racial superiority. It not only threatens exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations and social progress, but also becomes an important factor causing world turbulence and making people feel worried.

Civilizations should coexist harmoniously, instead of oppose to and confront with each other. No civilization is superior to the others. Civilizations are all of their own features and merits, and are therefore belong to precious spiritual wealth of mankind. Only by respecting different civilizations, can we live harmoniously and join hands to build a colorful, happy and peaceful world. Different civilizations need to respect, exchange with and mutually learn from each other. Exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations can enhance understanding and trust among countries and civilizations, and is conducive to building a world of lasting and universal peace; it can promote the spreading of science and technology, the exchanges of experience and sharing of achievements, thus contributing to the building of a world of common prosperity; it can eliminate cultural and spiritual gap and promote cultural progress, thus contributing to the building of an open and inclusive world; it can promote the harmonious coexistence of people and nature, as

well as sustainable development, contribute to the building of a clean and beautiful world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,

The Chinese civilization is originated from the land of China, and nourished by exchanges and mutual learning of other civilizations. China has treated other civilizations with an open and inclusive stance by advocating “harmony without uniformity” and advancing with the times, adhering to incorporate things of diverse natures, and striving to build a harmonious world. The history of the Chinese civilization is a history of exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.

Starting from Emperor Huang, the ancestor of the Chinese humanity, the Chinese people boasts a history of civilization of more than 5,000 years.

Over the past 5,000 years, through untold hardships, the Chinese people has been growing and prosperous. At different stages of historic development, the Chinese nation has made various achievement, thus contributing to the precious spiritual wealth of human society.

The birth and growth of every civilization has its reasons and conditions. Born on the fertile land of China, the vast, integrate and unique land off the west coast of the Pacific Ocean offers the objective condition for the development of the Chinese culture. The climate is hot in the south, cold in the north and west, wet in the east and moderate in the central. It is unique and diversified with unique and diversified topographic features. With its biological diversity and abundant natural resources, the Chinese civilization has integrated the farming culture, fishing and hunting culture as well as the nomadic culture.

With its diversified and inclusive nature, the Chinese civilization has distinctive regional features and unique national characteristics. A civilization belongs both to the ethnic group and the world, and each and every civilization is of distinctive ethnic feature. There is no civilization without national feature. Because civilization belongs to its nation, it belongs to the world—for the world is composed of

many different ethnic groups. Instead of one ethnic group, the Chinese nation is composed of 56 ethnic groups—this pattern is formed at the early stage of the development of the civilization. In the big family of the Chinese civilization, different regions and different cultures all retain some unique cultural traditions. These cultural elements with diversified characteristics compose the colorful, rich and immense Chinese civilization.

With its vast, inclusive, open and liberal nature, the Chinese civilization not only integrates different cultures of 56 ethnic groups, but also extensively learn from and embrace civilizations of all countries. The Chinese civilization never rejects any other civilizations in the world. Instead, it actively draws upon other civilizations to enrich itself. It can be seen from history that in its development process in the past thousands of years, the Chinese civilization conduct exchanges with and draw upon various eastern and western civilizations, including the civilizations of the South Asian sub-continent and Mediterranean region. The Chinese civilization not only promotes the progress of human society with its own material and spiritual achievements, but also injects fresh blood and new vitality for itself by absorbing rich nourishment from cultures of different regions, natures and forms.

With its nature of complying with nature and seeking truth, the Chinese civilization is rooted in farming. The most distinctive feature of a cultivation culture is its optimistic attitude and respect for nature by complying with natural laws and human culture. Culture is originated from production and civilization is created by labor. It is agriculture, featuring respect for nature and hard work, that cultivates the valuable characteristic of seeking truth and the unpretentious spirit of the Chinese civilization. “You reap what you sew.” In the process of farming over the past thousands of years, the Chinese people gradually forms the cultural tradition and national spirit of being practical, realistic, honest, pragmatic and seeking truth from facts. This national spirit, as a fundamental and constant characteristic of the

Chinese people, has been deeply rooted in their mind.

The Chinese civilization emphasizes the merits of putting people first and being modest and honest. The central idea of the Chinese civilization is people oriented—striving to ensure that people can live in peace and contentment. Only by achieving this objective, can economy develop smoothly, society remain stable and culture stay in progress. With this objective in mind, we gradually develop the ideas of understanding people, loving people, offering wellbeing for people and being honest. In politics, the concept of influencing people with virtue also takes root from this culture. Because people have the need to work and live in peace, the idea and social morality of being peaceful, moderate, gentle, kind, courteous and frugal have emerged and prospered. It is the national will of the Chinese people from generations to generations to seek peace, reject war, and live in peace, harmony, happiness and prosperity. The objectives of “great harmony” and “moderately prosperity” assiduously sought by the Chinese people is the concrete manifestation of this national mentality and civilization characteristic, which means all things live in harmony, all countries coexist in peace, all families get on well with each other and the whole world grows wonderful.

The Chinese civilization always keeps pace with the times and remains innovative. One of the important reasons that the Chinese civilization remains its vitality and makes progress in different historical phases is that it never embraces introversion or conservatism. Instead, it advances with the times and develops itself with innovation. The cultures of 56 ethnic groups converge and integrate with each other to make the Chinese culture—with unified thinking, will and spiritual pursuit. This practice of incorporating and integrating things of diverse nature means development and innovation. The current Chinese language, characters, architecture and art are all achievements of development and innovation. To cite a most tangible case, the great achievements of reform and opening up in the past 40 years are the fruits of development and innovation. Thanks to its

relentless development and innovation, the Chinese civilization prospers. Therefore, development and innovation is long-lasting merit of the Chinese civilization.

Since the founding of People's Republic of China 70 years ago, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, holding high the banner of peace, development, win-win cooperation, and with an open and inclusive mind, the Chinese people strive to coexist friendly, mutually learn from and jointly develop with the rest of the world, thus creating new great miracles in the history of human civilization.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,

In his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of Conference of Dialogue on Asian Civilizations, Chinese President Xi Jinping calls on strengthening exchanges and mutual learning among different countries, nations and cultures, and proposed four points of view, namely adhering to mutual respect and treating each other equally, adhering to enjoy the beauty of others and share beauty with others, adhering to openness, inclusiveness and mutual learning, adhering to advance with the times and innovative development. This is the wisdom and proposal China contributes for the building of a community of shared future for Asia and mankind.

The fourth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee convened before long proposed to uphold and improve socialist system with Chinese characteristics, and promote modernization of national governance institution and capabilities. Institution is the essence of civilization and institutional development is also the progressing of civilization. The socialist system with Chinese characteristics boasts the merits of openness and inclusiveness. In the process of upholding and improving socialist system with Chinese characteristics, we will actively learn and absorb all outstanding civilization achievements by strengthening exchanges and mutual learning with civilizations of all countries.

Entering into the new era, the determination of

China to take the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics and learn from and conduct win-win cooperation with other countries will never change. Just as President Xi Jinping points out, China is not an isolated country today—to the contrary, it is closely related with Asia and the rest of the world. In the future, China is bound to embrace the world with a more open-up stance and benefit the world with a civilization of greater vitality.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,

The human society is undergoing great development, reform and adjustment. Facing great development of multi-polarization, economic globalization, lasting advancement of information society and cultural diversity, a new round of technological revolution and industrial revolution have emerged. Countries have developed closer relationship and interdependence among each other and the whole world share a mutual-influencing future. The trend of peace, development and win-win cooperation has become all the more powerful. At the same time, we are living in the times of increased challenges and risks, featuring feeble world economic growth, lasting impact of financial crisis, widening development gap, armed conflicts here and there, the evil influence of cold war thinking and power politics, spreading non-traditional threats such as terrorism, refugee crisis, serious infectious diseases and climate change. It is the common expectation of people of the whole world that we can enjoy long-lasting peace, fast development and splendid civilization.

We advocate building a world of long-lasting peace with dialogue and consultation. If countries get on well with each other, the world will be in peace; if they confront with each other, the world will be in chaos. We should dissolve disputes and contradictions, eliminate war and conflicts better by improving our mechanisms and institutions. All countries and all parties should strive to build a world of universal security by establishing a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security concept.

We advocate building a world of common prosperity

with win-win cooperation. We should safeguard WTO rules by supporting an open, transparent, inclusive and non-discriminatory multilateral trade system and building an open world economy, and promote the development of an inclusive, balanced and win-win economic globalization by further enhancing great prosperity of global trade, great convenience of investment, great mobility of people and great development of technology.

We advocate building an open and inclusive world by adhering to exchanges and mutual learning. Human civilizations are diversified and colorful. Every civilization has its own unique charm and profundity. All civilizations are spiritual treasures of mankind. Different civilizations should draw upon each other and join hands to make progress, so as to make exchanges and mutual learning a driving force of social progress and a key maintaining world peace.

We advocate building a clean and beautiful world by adhering to green development. Only with due respect for nature, can nature offer a good environment for people's life. People and nature should coexist in harmony. We should lead a green, low-carbon and sustainable production and living mode, and pursue a development road of civilization featuring high productivity, abundant life and sound ecology.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,

Strengthening exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations is the common cause and dream of people of all countries. We should work actively and join hands to resolve all challenges confronting mankind by drawing wisdom and nourishments from different civilizations, thus building a community of shared future for mankind. We should stick to the following points.

First, adhere to harmony in diversity and strive to maintain the diversity of civilizations. Just like bio-diversity in nature, civilizations are also diversified—this is the intrinsic feature and development momentum of civilizations. Every

civilization is rooted from certain geological and historical context, and stands for a kind of unique values, production and way of living. In its history of development, every civilization contributes to the repository of human civilizations and converges into the relentlessly flowing river of human civilizations. Meanwhile, we should notice that with the rapid social and economic development and great changes in terms of production and way of living, many civilizations are facing the pressure of internal transformation and external environment. Just like bio-diversity, the diversity of civilizations also faces unprecedented challenges. Therefore, it has become our common historical mission to protect the diversity of civilizations and promote the development of different civilizations. We should strengthen international exchanges and cooperation covering governments, social organizations, think tanks and media, in an effort to jointly protect the diversity and heritages of civilizations, maintain the cultural roots of human being, thus making the garden of human civilizations more colorful.

Second, adhere to equality and mutual respect, support civilizations to improve their inclusiveness. Equality and mutual respect is the precondition of exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. Different civilizations have different merits. No civilization is superior to others and all civilization achievements deserve to be respected. Only by mutual learning, can different civilizations last longer, be more colorful and shining. Whether it is the ancient Chinese civilization, Greek civilization, Roman civilization, Egyptian civilization, Mesopotamian civilization and Indian civilization, or the modern and contemporary Asian civilization, African civilization, European civilization, American civilization or Oceania civilization, all makes great contribution to the progress of mankind. And all these civilizations develop themselves in the process of exchanges and mutual learning. The traditional Chinese medicine, one of the gems of the ancient Chinese culture, is now still spreading among and benefitting people of all over the world. The profound thoughts of ancient Greek philosophers are

still offering wisdom to the resolving of many global issues today. These civilizations are all achievements of human wisdom and all realized development and progress in the process of exchanges and mutual learning. Confronted with complex and volatile international situation, we should view other civilizations with equality and respect, and absorb and learn from outstanding achievements of other civilizations by adhering to openness and inclusiveness and getting rid of arrogance and prejudice.

Third, adhere to harmonious coexistence and strengthen connectivity among different civilizations. Civilizations are in some aspects the same and in some aspects different—for the different parts, they do not reject with each other. It is the true meaning and development path of civilizations to seek common merits and harmony among different aspects, draw upon each other, coexist in harmony and peace, and realize development and prosperity together. Buddhism is born in India and prospers in China. Confucianism is originated from China and is admired by many great thinkers all over the world. The fact that the above schools of thoughts can surpass countries and regions reflects the harmony and connectivity among different civilizations. Civilizations in the world will be more colorful and prosper as long as we adhere to principles of seeking common grounds and reserving differences, tackling the differences appropriately, drawing upon and tolerating each other. By advocating harmony and inclusiveness, the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping not only promotes economic cooperation and infrastructure connectivity, but also enhances mutual learning and connectivity among different civilizations. Taking the opportunity of the Belt and Road construction, we'd like to promote dialogues, understanding and acknowledgement among different civilizations and make unremitting efforts for the connectivity among civilizations by establishing more bridges of civilization exchanges, more platforms for civilization dialogue and actively forming a people-to-people exchange pattern with

wide coverage and positive interaction.

Fourth, adhere to sharing the merits and striving to promote inclusiveness among different civilizations. Civilization includes all the material and spiritual achievements of mankind: there are conventional civilizations as well as modern civilizations; there are political, economic and social civilizations, as well as scientific, media and cyber civilizations. Civilizations are created by mankind over the past thousands of years and therefore should be shared and enjoyed by all people. In history, the thousands of miles long ancient Silk Road greatly promoted civilization exchanges and sharing: thanks to this road, Buddhism, Islam and Arabic astronomy, calendar and medicine spread to China and the four great inventions of ancient China and Chinese silkworm breeding technology went abroad. Today, with advanced technology and traffic, we should, by inheriting the Silk Road spirit, promote civilization exchanges and sharing, so as to pursue a road of common understanding and development. We should also, adhering to share merits with others, strive to diverse world civilizations, make people of all countries share our civilization achievements, and provide people of all countries with more spiritual and mental support, thus building a harmonious and beautiful world together.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,

Taking the opportunity of the Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilizations, let us join hands to shoulder the responsibility of enlightening the road of building a community of shared future for mankind with civilization exchanges and mutual learning by establishing the bridges of exchanges, connectivity and mutual learning for world civilization, and fastening the ties for promoting social progress and world peace.

Wish this Dialogue a great success!

Thank you.

(Translated by ShenYiqian)



## Address at the Launching Ceremony of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Romania by Mme.Xu Lyuping, Vice-President of China NGO Network for International Exchanges

Distinguished former Prime Minister  
Mr. Peter Roman,  
Distinguished Minister Mr. Niculae  
Badalau,  
Distinguished Mr. & Mrs. Bartha,  
Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

It's my great delight to attend the launching ceremony of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Romania, which is a major event to enhance the mutual understanding and trust, promote people-to-people connectivity as well as consolidate the foundation of the Belt and Road cooperation between China and Romania. I'd like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the delegates participating in today's event on behalf of China NGO Network for International Exchanges and the participants representing Chinese NGOs.

The Belt and Road Initiative proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013 aimed at enhancing connectivity, deepening pragmatic cooperation as well as working together to address all risks and challenges facing humanity for mutual benefits and common development. Over the past 6 years, with the joint efforts of all parties, the BRI cooperation has made sound progress with bountiful results, opening up new space for world economic growth, building up new platforms for international investment and trade, expanding new practices for improving global economic governance and making new contribution



to improving people's livelihood. The Belt and Road now serves as a road of opportunities and prosperity.

This April, the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was successfully hosted in Beijing, attracting over 6000 foreign guests from 150 countries and 92 international organizations, with 283 practical results reached and cooperation agreements worth of over US\$64 billion signed. Participants reached extensive consensus on high-quality BRI cooperation. At this very meeting, CNIE, together with other Chinese NGOs, announced the launching of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative, planning to facilitate the building of 500 cooperation partnerships among the NGOs in BRI countries and conduct 200 livelihood cooperation projects in developing BRI countries. This initiative was included in the outcome list of the second BRF.

Once inceptioned, this initiative was actively received by all communities in the BRI countries. Up till now, the initiative was respectively launched in Mongolia, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Pakistan, reflecting the strong desire of the people to enhance exchanges and cooperation as well as seek prosperity and development for better lives.

China is the largest developing country in the world, while Romania ranks the second among CEE countries in terms of population and total area. Over the years, China and Romania have always adhered to mutual respect and equality, and have rendered firm support to each other's core interest. As emerging economies, China and Romania enjoy complementarities in economy and broad cooperation space. Romania is an active supporter and participator of the BRI cooperation. We believe that, with our joint efforts, the two countries will expand pragmatic cooperation within the BRI framework, bring about bountiful results and bring more benefits to our two peoples. China and Romania have a profound friendship and solid people-to-people foundation. In the 17th Century, a Romanian traveler Spadaru wrote the famous Journey to China based on his personal experience, making him an European messenger who has systematically introduced China to the Western world. In the 1930-40s, Romanian doctor David Iancu and Bucur Clejan went all the way to devote to the anti-fascist struggle in China, whose heroic deeds of saving the wounded regardless of their personal sacrifices were widely sung about throughout China. In 1949, Romania became one of the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with the New China, since when the China-Romania friendship has deeply rooted in the hearts and minds of our two peoples.

Entering the 21st century, the development of our bilateral relations has entered a new stage, with political mutual trust continuously enhanced, economic and trade cooperation constantly expanded. Besides, people-to-people exchanges are more colorful and diverse, as illustrated by the fact that Romanian movies as The Danube Waves were still much talked about among Chinese people and that

TV dramas as Romance of the Three Kingdoms were liked by the Romanian people. Today, the reason why representatives from Chinese civil society came all the way to Romania is to further carry forward our traditional friendship.

Friendship between the people holds the key to sound state-to-state relations, and heart-to-heart communication contributes to deeper friendship. There's an old saying in Romania "while the flowing water goes, the stone stay forever". Ensuring the sound development of the China-Romania Comprehensive Friendly Cooperation Partnership through BRI cooperation can not be achieved without the mutual understanding and trust between the two peoples. China is home to 800,000 NGOs, among which CNIE is the largest foreign affairs-related NGO network. Today, we are here to jointly host the event of Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Romania as representatives of Chinese NGOs just to facilitate the connection and cooperation between NGOs in China and Romania, thus building new platforms for and injecting fresh impetus into the people-to-people exchanges. We are convinced that the Silk Road Building Initiative is bound to effectively promote the establishment of relationship between Chinese and Romanian NGOs and to deepen people-to-people exchanges and cooperation in all fields. We sincerely hope that NGOs in the two countries can take active actions following the principle of consultation, cooperation for shared benefits, give full play to their roles in linking the people and enhancing understanding, and make relentless efforts in dovetailing cooperation ideas, enhancing ideal approval, promoting people-to-people communications and connectivity so as to contribute more civil forces to achieve more bountiful BRI results, advance economic and social development and promote the building of a community with a shared future.

I wish the events of the Silk Road Building Initiative a complete success.

Thank you all!

(Translated by ShenYiqian)

# The Belt and Road Initiative Advances the Building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind

Yu Sui

In November, 2012, the idea of advocating the building of a community with a shared future for humanity was clearly proposed in the report to the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. In September and October, 2013, the Chinese President Xi Jinping respectively proposed the strategic initiatives of building the New Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, namely the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It thus became an innovative platform for advancing the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

## I

The humankind only has one Earth and all nations coexist in the one and only world. The proposal of a community with a shared future aims to accommodating the legitimate concerns of other countries while pursuing the national interests so as to promote the common development of all countries while developing itself.

The BRI is an strategic initiative proposed by the Chinese government, based on the profound changes of the international and regional situation as well as the new situations and new tasks facing China's development, to devote to safeguarding the global free trade system and the open economy system, so as to facilitate the cooperation and seek common development for all the BRI countries.

The roles of the BRI can be reflected in some major

features of the era in today's world.

The first is economic globalization. The proposal of BRI is inseparable from the context of economic globalization. Marx said: "The trend of creating the world has been directly included in the concept of capital itself." Since its birth, capital has attempted to extend its relationship to the whole world, demanding that production be turned into international production and that market become international market. The BRI is an important measure to steer economic globalization towards a just and reasonable direction. Economic globalization is an objective trend where developed capitalist countries still play a leading role. That said, we should admit that economic globalization is a "double-edged sword", which will not only bring vitality to and promote the sustainable growth of the world economy, but also pose risks and challenges to the economic situation of all countries, especially developing countries. The BRI is a product born in the context of economic globalization, which aims to adapt to economic globalization, carry forward its positive sides and contain its negative sides, take effective measures to establish a unified, open, balanced and non-discriminatory global market on the basis of acknowledging the diversity of economic development modes, so as to form and improve the universal norms and common practices for economic activities. It's true that some countries, organizations and leading figures have taken measures to resist economic globalization because

their personal interests had not been accommodated from it, thus generating a strong momentum against globalization every now and then. But at the end of the day, the resistance occurred only in parts of the world intermittently, and there's no way they will become the overwhelming force in stopping the general trend of economic globalization. China has always regarded economic globalization as a major premise for the implementation of reform and opening-up, and sought to be in line with the international community based on the foundation of fair and equitable rules. It has never denied economic globalization despite the dominance of developed capitalist countries.

The second is world multi-polarization. The Belt and Road represents an effort to promote the multi-polarization of the world pattern and seek to establish a fair and rational new international order from a unique perspective. Since the beginning of the new century, the superpower, the United States, has suffered from setbacks and begun to decline, but it still has the conditions and is likely to maintain world hegemony to a large extent. But the spirit of "win-win cooperation" and the principle of consultation, cooperation for shared benefits we uphold in Belt and Road cooperation are applicable to all countries, including developed capitalist ones, and should be acknowledged. Of course, the Belt and Road also objectively represents our voice in criticizing and negating global hegemony, trade protectionism and unilateralism. The more the BRI is obstructed by the US hegemony, the more its fairness, rationality and its significance of promoting the world's multi-polarization are presented.

The third is the democratization of international relations. The BRI contains the essence of democratization of international relations. The BRI's principle of win-win cooperation and its specific goals in pursuing connectivity in policy, infrastructure, trade, finance and people-to-people

bonds all symbolize the idea of the era that all countries are equal, be they big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor. The BRI conforms to the interests of all countries, especially developing ones, thus receiving widespread support and endorsement.

## II

Building a community with a shared future for humanity is the call of the times, the hope of the humanity, and the bright prospect of the peace-loving Chinese people aspire to. Since the birth of New China, with the advancement of the times, the Chinese leaders, in different periods of times, have proposed the five principles of peaceful co-existence, the perspective on the time themed by peace and development, the new perspective on security and development featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respecting the diversity of civilizations and pursuing common development, the proposal of building a harmonious world with sustained peace and common prosperity as well as the principle of equality, mutual trust, inclusiveness, mutual learning and win-win cooperation. The BRI serves as a practical platform for promoting the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

The initiation of the BRI is in line with China's status as the world's second largest economy and symbolizes the gradual improvement of China's say to some extent. The idea of coordinated, innovative, green, open and shared development is not only for China, but for the whole world at large. The BRI, as a cooperation bond, is an innovative measure the Chinese leaders take with earnest dedication and devotion, considering the common future for all humanity, to safeguard peace and promote development in the new era.

Since the BRI's inception six years ago, facts have proven that it is rising above the wealth gap and unbalanced regional development caused by western countries' journey of globalization and

that it is promoting the building of a harmonious world with sustained peace, common security and shared prosperity. The BRI shows the features of a community with a shared future for humanity.

Confucius, a great thinker and educator in ancient China, said that “gentleman accommodate divergent views while villain diverse on accommodative views”. Different views on the BRI speak volume for what is “harmony in diversity” and what is “sameness but inharmony”.

The BRI covers many countries from different regions. The historical origins, cultural traditions, social systems, economic development, social customs and other aspects of these countries have this or that differences. But they gather together to willingly seek “harmony” by the attraction of the BRI. This “harmony” is not only about peaceful co-existence, but contains rich substantial contents, which means all relevant countries, in the principle of mutual respect and win-win cooperation, strengthen coordination in fields as policies, infrastructure, trade and finance and share high-quality production capacities and cooperation outcomes in this process, so as to integrate into a community with a shared future that has political mutual trust, economic integration and cultural inclusion.

On the other hand, we still see the phenomenon of “Uniformity but inharmony”. Some always advertise “sameness”, but they are in no way “harmonious”. They all claim to believe in freedom, democracy, fraternity and abide by the UN Charter, basic norms of the international law and the WTO statutes. But in fact, they are accustomed to bullying, practicing hegemony over those weak and poor countries, or provoking disputes and contradictions and damaging other countries’ interests just for their personal gains. They have evil intentions on the BRI, or even deliberately disrupt and sabotage it. They constantly hype up the evil theories of “debt trap”, “geopolitical tool” and “premature failure”. In the mirror of the

BRI, we can clearly tell who the gentlemen and villains are.

### III

A community with a shared future for humanity refers to two layers of concern: nature and society. In the face of nature, mankind is undoubtedly a community with a shared future. To tackle with climate change, for example, all countries should work together in weal and woe. However, the disputes triggered by responsibility sharing make us stumble and move forward in an unsteady way. What stands out is that due to different attitudes towards the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, it painstakingly took years, from the fruitless Copenhagen conference in 2009, to make tough progress in the Paris conference in 2015.

From the social perspective, the community of shared future is more complex. Taking counterterrorism as an example, countries should have acted in concert without hesitation out of sharing common destiny. However, due to the problem of responsibility sharing and someone’s special purpose, they are not fully dedicated to fighting terrorism, and even complicate the issue, causing many conflicts and difficulties.

A community with a shared future for humanity is composed of a community with shared interests and a community with shared responsibilities. President Xi Jinping said, “As for a state, benefits will not be found in pecuniary gain, but in righteousness.” In international cooperation, we should pay attention to interests, and more importantly, righteousness. Only by taking righteousness and interests into account can we acquire both. Only by balancing them can we achieve win-win results.”

The reason why Belt and Road Initiative can promote the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind is that it advocates a new type of relationship emphasizing equal participation, which can connect with development strategies of



various countries, thus demonstrating strong vitality and charisma. Over the past six years, the Belt and Road has made steady progress from point to point across the region. By the beginning of 2019, China had signed 172 cooperation documents with 124 countries and 29 international organizations, and a number of important infrastructure and connectivity projects had been implemented. Italy, an important member of the European Union, became the first G7 country to sign the memorandum of understanding on the Belt and Road Initiative, despite the opposition of the United States.

The good thing was that in March 2016, the Belt and Road Initiative was incorporated into the Security Council resolution 2274 for the first time. After that, 193 UN member states unanimously endorsed the inclusion of the Belt and Road Initiative in the general assembly resolution.

The Belt and Road Initiative is an innovative development that transcends national boundaries. While we see the achievements, we also keep an eye on the challenges and risks from all aspects. The Belt and Road should and can only move forward in global governance.

The task of global governance is onerous. In the face of a multi-polar world, economic globalization, cultural diversity and informatization of society, the interconnection and interdependence among countries have been increasingly deepened, but many common challenges also lie in front of them. Non-traditional global security issues such as food security, resource shortage, climate change, cyber attacks, population explosion, environmental pollution, epidemic diseases and transnational crimes keep emerging, posing grave challenges to the international order and also human survival. It's true that the difficulties in aligning its strategies with those of other countries also remain a challenge for the Belt and Road Initiative to solve.

The implementation of the Belt and Road strategy

will also encounter thorny territorial disputes. By differentiating specific cases, China put forward a proposal of “putting disputes aside and jointly pursuing development” to fairly handle the issue. Moreover, political stability within a country can also affect the progress of the Belt and Road. China has always been committed to promoting reconciliation, and taken an exemplary role through upholding the principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and tolerance. Terrorism, the enemy of mankind, has severely impeded the Belt and Road in the way. China's efforts in combating terrorism through the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and other means are obvious to all.

The Belt and Road has a long and arduous way to go, and building a community with a shared future for mankind serves more as a long-term goal. If the ancient silk road has become a popular story with universal praise throughout the ages, then the Belt and Road, as a platform for the interests of all countries to converge and with great charm generated by its spirit of the time, has affected the world pattern, connected with global governance, inspired the vast number of developing countries and attracted a number of developed countries. The world-renowned Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation endeavors to open up a new era of international relations with win-win cooperation as the theme. As a well-known Chinese saying goes, “The road is tortuous but the future is bright.” It is firmly believed that with the increasingly prominent positive significance of the modelling effect of Belt and Road, and as the understanding and recognition of Belt and Road gradually deepened among countries, under the guidance of “harmony in diversity” principle, Belt and Road will make unprecedented outstanding contributions to the construction of a community with a shared future for humanity.

*(The author is a Professor at the China Center for Contemporary Studies.)*

# Adhering to Opening-up is the Key to Solve Sino-US Economic and Trade Problems

Wang Huiyao

The new round of Sino-US high-level economic and trade consultations has been concluded. This is the 13th round of negotiations since the wide acceleration of economic and trade frictions between China and US. It has made major breakthroughs in the 18 months since the negotiations were launched. It has been reported that negotiators from China and the United States have made substantial progress in agriculture, intellectual property protection, exchange rate, financial services, expansion of trade and cooperation, technology transfer and dispute resolution. Believing that the two countries have reached the first stage of a trade agreement, U.S. President Trump signed an agreement with China in November.

China's adherence to the road of reform and opening-up holds the key to the progress made in trade negotiations. Since the Trump Administration unilaterally provoked the trade dispute against China, the United States has been exerting constant pressure on China by imposing tariffs and other means. Despite the harsh environment of international trade and public opinion, China has resisted pressure and demonstrated to the world its open-mindedness and confidence with practical actions.

China has fulfilled its commitment by opening up the market. From the Boao Forum for Asia to the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation,

President Xi Jinping has repeatedly announced to the world that China will further open the door to the market, relax control over market access, and welcome outstanding enterprises from all over the world. In 2018, China's negative list for foreign investment was reduced from 63 to 48, and 22 opening-up measures were introduced into the fields of finance, automobiles, ships, railways, agriculture, minerals and power grids. Premier Li Keqiang said at this year's Summer Davos Forum that the limit on foreign capital stocks in the financial industry would be lifted in 2020, one year ahead of schedule. Data from the Ministry of Commerce show that in the first seven months of 2019, 24,050 foreign-invested enterprises were newly established nationwide, with the amount of actually used foreign capital of 533.14 billion RMB, up 7.3% year on year. These achievements precisely reflect China's continuous opening-up efforts.

An all-round improvement of the business environment is another step toward opening-up. A sound business environment is the basic condition for attracting foreign investment. China has high-quality infrastructure and a relatively complete industrial chain, providing a basic guarantee for the efficiency of multinational enterprises' production and operation. In addition, the enactment of the Foreign Investment Law has provided legal protection for the

legitimate interests of foreign enterprises in China and strengthened foreign investors' confidence in China's soft business environment.

Vigorous protection of intellectual property rights reflects China's encouragement and respect for innovation. Since the reform and opening up, market competition has stimulated innovation significantly. Now intellectual property protection is not only sought by foreign enterprises but also their Chinese counterparts. In order to better protect IPR, China has restructured the National Intellectual Property Administration and set up a National Response and Guidance Center for Overseas Intellectual Property Disputes. While strengthening the administrative and judicial protection of intellectual property rights, China also pays more attention to international cooperation in IPR protection.

In addition, the more open talent policy and visa policy have promoted a talent flow into China. After the establishment of the National Immigration Administration, many new visa policies have been issued, which not only greatly streamlines foreign visits in China, but also enhances China's attraction to international talents.

Sticking to the strategy of opening-up, China has been continuously releasing information favorable for reform. This has provided China with more bargaining power in negotiations with the United States. What needs to be seen is that although important achievements have been made in negotiations and Sino-US economic and trade relations have somewhat eased, the development of Sino-US relations will not be roses all the way, given the background of the continuous impact of anti-globalization and the increasingly complex international situation. More challenges will emerge in the future. Therefore, to maintain the fair competition and friendly cooperation between China and the United States, we need to stick to the opening-up strategy and carry on with reform and

innovation.

First of all, China can make full of its 18 coastal pilot free trade zones to stimulate foreign investment. Since China issued the first negative list in 2013, the negative list system has been gradually established and improved. Within six years, China's negative list of foreign investment has been reduced from 190 to 40 in the current national version and 37 in the FTZ version. Relying on free trade zones, China can seek to further reduce the negative list and release more space for foreign investment.

Among the 18 free trade zones, the development of Hainan free trade zone is very remarkable. In particular, the implementation of its visa-free policy for tourist entry has made Hainan an important window for the world to understand China and have a glimpse of its beauty. An all-round upgrade of the open-up policy of the Hainan Free Trade Zone is conducive to further tapping Hainan's development potential and releasing China's signal of opening to the world.

Second, we should build on the free trade zones and continue to expand the open market and promote a trade model that features "zero tariff, zero barrier and zero subsidy". China is the world's second largest consumer market and has great growth potential. Statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics show that in 2018 the gap in consumption between China and the United States has narrowed to 280 billion US dollars, but the average retail sales of social consumer goods in mainland China accounted for only 23% of that in the United States. If the mainland's per capita consumption reaches the level of the United States, it means that the mainland's market size will be 4 times that of the United States. China's huge consumer market is the fundamental reason attracting investment from worldwide. In this regard, we should further relax control over market access, open up more fields, and welcome enterprises from all over the world, especially from the United States,

to invest in China so that the idea of "decoupling" of the United States cannot be implemented. Playing this "market card" well will give our country more room for negotiation in future economic and trade negotiations with the United States.

Third, we should strengthen the protection of intellectual property rights and build a better business environment. IPR protection is a thorny issue worldwide. According to the "2018 Out-of-Cycle Review of Notorious Markets" and "Memorandum on Combating Trafficking in Counterfeit and Pirated Goods" released by U.S. Trade Representative Office (USTR), as well as the "Trends in Trade in Counterfeit and Pirated Goods" report jointly published by Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and European Union Intellectual Property Office, global trade of counterfeit and pirated goods is still on the rise, and China is one of the sources of counterfeit goods. Moreover, China's inadequate protection of trade secrets and ineffective fight against Internet piracy has also been targeted by the U.S. in the trade dispute. In fact, as China's economy develops, we have had the ability to take "hard protection" measures for intellectual property rights. Therefore, China should effectively improve the level of IPR, crack down on IPR infringement and other acts in accordance with the law, and continue to create a sound business environment that encourages and protects innovation.

Fourth, opening-up is a two-way interaction between "bringing in" and "going out". While opening our doors to welcome foreign investment into China, we should also take the initiative to step onto the international stage and participate in global economic governance. The existing global economic governance mechanism lags behind the global economic development, and new technologies

have posed challenges to the economic order. In this critical period, China and other countries are actively responding to various challenges, turning challenges into opportunities and enhancing China's voice in global governance.

Fifth, in the new stage of globalization, regional integration has become an important way to promote the development of globalization. As a trading power in the Asia-Pacific region, if China joins the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (CPTPP), it will open a new channel for China's economic and trade development in the Asia-Pacific region and help China deeply participate in the economic and trade integration in the region. This will also be strategically contending against the U.S. strategy of returning to the Asia-Pacific region to prevent the U.S. from uniting with China's neighboring countries to jointly suppress China.

The final conclusion of the Sino-US economic and trade agreement conforms to the interests of the two countries' economic development. It is also the common expectation of the two peoples, and is of great significance to the maintenance of the free trade order of the world economy. Given the continuous challenges to the international free trade order, China and the United States, as two economic powerhouses, inevitably encounter frictions and differences in competition. However, only by adhering to the opening-up strategy can the friendly relations between China and the United States be fundamentally maintained and endure all kinds of challenges.

*(The author is a Counselor of the State Council and Director-General of the Center for China and Globalization (CCG))*

# Research on the Construction of Social Mechanism for the Realization of China's "Sustainable Overseas Interest"

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China's overseas interest has become more visible and fragile with the deepening of integration into the world. To protect China's overseas interest, we need to focus on the realization of China's "sustainable overseas interest" in addition to the prevention of direct infringement and threat. "Sustainable overseas interest" include different content levels of nation, corporate and society. Referring to the experience of other countries, we find that China still lacks the main body dimension in its maintenance mechanism of "sustainable overseas interest", and the social mechanism level of the trinity system of government, enterprise and society is still insufficient. Therefore, in order to better safeguard China's "sustainable overseas interest", the social maintenance mechanism of overseas interest should be paid attention to and further improved.

## 1 The Connotation of China's "Sustainable Overseas Interest"

"sustainability" and "overseas interest" are the two keywords for "sustainable overseas interest". "Sustainability" is derived from the concept of "sustainable development", which was defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" in Our Common Future, a report published by World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, "sustainability" also has the connotation of social science. According to Barbier, social sustainability was defined as "the capacity to maintain the required social values, which includes tradition, institution culture and other social features".<sup>2</sup> "Overseas interest" refer to "national interest mainly generated in the form of international contracts by global connections between governments, businesses, social organizations and citizens that exist outside the sovereign jurisdiction of states".<sup>3</sup> Compared with "direct overseas

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1. World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future, 1987, 41

2. Barbier, E. B., The concept of sustainable economic development, Environmental Conservation, Vol.14, No. 2 1987, pp. 101-110.

3. Su Changhe, On China's Overseas Interests, World Economics and Politics Volume 8, 2009, pp.13-20.



interest”, which could be more easily understood and identified, “sustainable overseas interest” includes the following basic aspects:

First, “sustainable overseas interest” have different levels of realization. At the national level, it mainly refers to the interest of national image. National image interest, as important soft power resource, is directly related to a country’s “reputation capital” in the international community.<sup>4</sup> At the corporate level, “sustainable overseas interest” is mainly about the corporate brand image. The reputation of an enterprise will largely determine whether its commodities or services can be preferred by the host country. At the social level, “sustainable overseas interest” mainly refers to acquiring recognition of overseas people and the realization of “people-to-people connectivity”.

Secondly, from the perspective of realization approaches, the acquisition of “direct overseas interest”, largely dependent on the actions of nations and enterprises, can be directly realized through diplomatic means such as negotiation and signing contracts and “hard power” such as military ways, while enterprises can achieve it by making profits through overseas business activities. However, “sustainable overseas interest” relies more on some comprehensive “soft power” approaches; for example, the supply of various global public goods, overseas aid and participation in peacekeeping operations.

Thirdly, from the perspective of the time dimension of realization, the realization period of “direct overseas interest” is relatively short and has an immediate effect. However, the realization cycle of

“sustainable overseas interest” is long, and it does not play its role directly or obviously, but rather imperceptibly. However, it is of great significance to the sustainability of future overseas interests.

## **2 Challenges for the Realization of China’s “Sustainable Overseas Interest”**

Since the reform and opening up, China’s overseas interest has continued to grow rapidly. At the same time, the realization of China’s “sustainable overseas interest” also faces challenges from all sides:

At the national level, as a rapidly rising power, China has captured the world’s attention with its stunning economic achievements. The international community generally recognizes China’s contribution to global governance and is optimistic about China’s future development. But at the same time, China’s rapid development has also encountered various criticisms in the international community, and there are different voices in the evaluation of China’s international image. Opinions on “China threat theory” keeps on fermenting, and many countries hate and fear China’s rise. China’s overseas actions also create the impression of “economic expansion” in other countries, while its economic assistance in developing countries is labeled as “state colonialism”.

At the enterprise level, with Chinese enterprises’ accelerated pace of going global, “Made in China” has become a business card of China, making great contribution to the world economic development. However, international trade frictions targeted at Chinese companies and Chinese goods are also on the rise. In some countries, “made in China” is tagged as cheap and of poor quality. Some Chinese corporates are accused of ignoring environmental

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4. Wang Duanyong and Su Changhe, Annual Research Report on China’s Overseas Interests:2008-2009, Shanghai Renmin Press, 2011, pp11.

protection, labor protection and human rights, infringement of intellectual property rights, and lacking transparency and social responsibility. Some Chinese enterprises operating overseas often need to reduce prices to become competitive, so that Chinese goods are less favored by high-end consumers, which further limits the overseas development route and long-term planning of Chinese enterprises, and hinders the realization of China's sustainable overseas interest.

At the social level, the recognition of China's identity among foreign people is not optimistic. With the promotion of the "Belt and Road" initiative and more and more Chinese going abroad, people's perception of China is no longer limited to the elite level of each country, and their negative perception of China has also affected the realization of China's sustainable overseas interest. This negative perception is mainly embodied in "anti-China" nationalism abroad. Chinese nationals working in Africa and the Middle East have become one of the main targets of assassinations and kidnappings, and theft and robbery incidents against Chinese tourists frequently occur in many countries among the major destinations of Chinese tourists.

In the new era, China's "sustainable overseas interest" is facing severe challenges. It is necessary to further improve China's national image, corporate reputation, strengthen people-to-people connectivity, and further improve the complex mechanism for safeguarding China's "sustainable overseas interest".

### **3 Focus on Promoting the Building of Social Mechanisms for the Realization of China's**

#### **Sustainable Overseas Interest**

Compared with the significant role played by social forces in other countries in the process of safeguarding overseas interests, the main body dimension in the maintenance mechanism of China's sustainable overseas interest currently has only two parts: government and enterprise, and the role played by society is still limited. Although China is exploring a diversified model for protecting its overseas interest and breaking away from its reliance on diplomatic representation and consular protection, it has yet to show a change in overall characteristics.<sup>5</sup> Social weakness clearly exists in China's "sustainable overseas interest" maintenance mechanism, and we need to further strengthen China's social ties with other countries. Given that the enrichment and strengthening of the transnational contact network composed of individuals and groups is a kind of "relation power",<sup>6</sup> China's overseas strategy should emphasize the contact with overseas non-governmental actors, which needs Chinese social organizations to play a role in buffer, bridging and balance at the international level.<sup>7</sup>

In the logical framework of the complex mechanism to realize China's "sustainable overseas interest", various social organizations in China are the main force at the social level. In terms of the social mechanism to safeguard China's "sustainable overseas interest", the following aspects need to be promoted:

First of all, establish overseas network to win diversified partners. In light of international experience, when different social organizations

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5.Xiao He, Comparisons between Countries on overseas interests Protection, Annual Report on International Politics and Security2019,pp.204-219.

6.Su Changhe, New Perspectives on the Management of China's Overseas Interests, Exploration and Free Views, 2011, 1(8):37-42.

exert their influence overseas, most of them choose different areas of focus based on the diplomatic strategy of their own countries, which can be roughly divided into three types: establishing relations within other countries, establishing relations with other countries' organizations or jointly forming a global network. In the path of internationalization of Chinese social organizations, sending agencies or establishing offices around the world is an important way to gain international influence. The establishment of overseas network can better play a role in the collection, communication and coordination of overseas information, further master sufficient first-hand information for China's overseas investment and overseas activities, reduce the risk of detours, and at the same time, enhance friendship, resolve conflicts, and safeguard the security and interests of enterprises and citizens through carrying out daily exchanges.

Secondly, actively carry out overseas projects to provide professional support services for government and enterprises' overseas projects. The professionalism of social organizations is the foundation for them to exert influence overseas. Professionalism, on the one hand, refers to the professional knowledge and skills of the industries concerned by the organization, such as environmental protection, disaster relief, and professional skills training. On the other hand, social organizations, as non-profit organizations, its effective management relies on mobilizing the involvement of people and the acquisition of social resources and other ways which are more fit for the local situation and easier

to communicate. Based on the above characteristics, the social organizations' professional ability will bring about more popular credibility and better international reputation.

Third, advocate win-win cooperation and win the hearts of overseas people. Respecting and learning from the value discourse system of global consensus and the general operation method of international project execution are important ways for social organizations to moisturize things silently. Public opinion propaganda, with social organizations as the main body of communication, will enjoy higher credibility, legitimacy and reputation. The "people-to-people connectivity" of the "Belt and Road" needs to link the "village roads" of people-to-people diplomacy at the social level, break through the "capillary" of social relations, and contribute to the practical effect of the "main road" of government diplomacy in the "last kilometer" project.

With the implementation of China's "Belt and Road" strategy, the importance of safeguarding China's overseas interest has become more and more significant. Among them, "sustainable overseas interest" emphasizes and pays more attention to the sustainability of overseas interests, which is related to China's long-term national interests. In the maintenance of China's sustainable overseas interest, it is necessary to further attach importance to the unique role of social mechanisms, promote China's social organizations to go global, and better serve the realization of China's "sustainable overseas interest".

(Translated by Hu Xu)

## Five Points on the Participation of Social Organizations in the activities of the United Nations

On June 30, 2019, on behalf of the Beijing Zhicheng Migrant Workers Legal Aid and Research Center (hereinafter referred to as the Center), I went to Geneva to attend the 41st Session of the UN Human Rights Council. This is my third time to participate in the activities of the UN Human Rights System. Since we acquired the special consultative status with the UN ECOSOC in 2011, our center has actively participated in the activities of the United Nations and has continuously aired real voices from the Chinese people.

In the past, many social organizations may be unfamiliar with the topic of participating in UN affairs, but with the development of the times, it is more pressing for social organizations to actively participate in international affairs. I would like to share some points of my experience in participating in the UN activities from the perspective of social organizations.

### **Introduction of the UN ECOSOC consultative status**

The status of the UN ECOSOC consultative status is an accreditation of non-governmental organizations participating in United Nations activities and an important indicator of the international recognition of NGOs. By granting consultative status, the United Nations recognizes some important international NGOs, establishes working relationships with



them, and encourages them to play their role in international affairs.

According to official data, as of 2018, there are about 5,000 global NGOs with consultative status with the UN ECOSOC. There are three types of consultative status: general consultative status, special consultative status, and consultative status on the roster. The rights enjoyed for the consultative status include: permanent representatives in New York, Geneva and Vienna; participation in all United Nations conferences and comments on a number of issues; preparation of relevant meetings and submission of written reports at United Nations venues; conduct related research surveys entrusted by the United Nations and subsidiary bodies or submit shadow reports.

### **My participation experience**



At the beginning of 2018, I went to Geneva to attend a conference on the theme of "the promotion of human rights by social organizations". The conference focused on the issue of poverty eradication and the protection of LGBT group rights, women's rights, children's rights and the rights of the elderly. What role can a social organization play in promoting human rights and promoting the protection of the rights and interests of vulnerable groups? At that time, I made two speeches at the meeting on behalf of the center. I mainly introduced some aspects of China's efforts to safeguard the rights and interests of migrant workers. I also let everyone know that the Chinese government and social organizations have done a lot in safeguarding the rights and interests of our migrant workers.

In March 2019, I attended the 40th session of the UN Human Rights Council, and we applied for oral statement of general debate in this conference. In the entire UN rules, speakers are divided into two parts: the representative of the government and the representative of social organization. Therefore, in the UN's agenda, our social organizations have a very

high degree of participation and can fully express their opinions and suggestions. In addition, as a representative of Chinese social organizations, we tell stories about China's protection of the rights of migrant workers at the review conference of the third round of UPR of China.

On June 24, 2019, the 41st Human Rights Council was held in Geneva. I participated in the discussion on agenda item 3, item 4 and item 5. Through the participation, the international human rights dynamics were updated in a timely manner and further promoted my thinking about the role that social organizations can play in promoting the development of human rights in the world.

### **The Five Points of my Understanding**

First, social organizations play a very important role in national and international governance. Many countries and some western political theories believe that social organization is an important organizational form and an important force in the governance of a country. In recent years, the role of Chinese social organizations has gradually gained attention and





recognition. In 2016, China issued the document "On the reform of social organization management system to promote the healthy and orderly development of social organizations", which gave a very clear positioning on the role of social organizations. In addition, social organizations can be seen in the documents of the 18th and 19th National Congress of the Party. With the development of the times, in the future, the role of social organizations in building a community of shared future for mankind and participating in international governance will become increasingly prominent.

It is inevitable that the development of Chinese social organizations and their influence in the international arena still lag behind the West. When communicating with foreign parties, they said that the Chinese government has previously spent a lot of money, such as many hospitals and schools in Cambodia, but the specific services provided by hospitals and schools are from Korean and Japanese social organizations. Local residents are not deeply impressed by China. Instead, they appreciate the social organizations that provide medical and educational services of other countries. I believe that in this respect, social organizations can give full play to their unique

advantages of specialization and neutrality to ensure the implementation of China's my livelihood projects.

Second, the current UN discourse system is dominated by the West. In the process of dealing with foreign NGOs, Chinese social organizations are faced with the phenomenon of being "labeled". It is not only a problem for China but also for many other developing countries. The current UN discourse system is still dominated by the West.

Although Western values emphasize tolerance and openness, unreasonable prejudice and injustice are still visible throughout the conference.

Third, Chinese social organizations are in a leading position in the fields of environmental protection, poverty alleviation, protection of vulnerable groups, and on-line public welfare. In terms of environmental protection, the products represented by "Ant Forest" (a program designed by Alipay for the "carbon account") have been unanimously recognized. In terms of the protection of vulnerable groups, such as the protection of children's rights, the protection of migrant workers, and the protection of the elderly, our practices and concepts are recognized by all parties. China's Internet public welfare has achieved "everyone's public welfare" and provided a model for the world. However, our publicity efforts are weaker than our achievements and experience. The reason is that on the one hand, we lack the awareness or approach to make our voice heard by the international community; on the other hand, we are still not confident enough.

Fourth, social organizations participating in UN activities must determine the strategic positioning of

the organization, actively understand the development and changes of the international situation, and master international rules. In order to participate in the activities of the United Nations, social organizations must first establish an international approach, understand the international situation, and grasp international dynamics. Only in this way can they be in an active position in international exchanges. For example, it is necessary to understand universal international issues such as humanitarian disasters and relief, social needs of developing countries, environmental protection, poverty alleviation, and vulnerable groups. At the same time, it is necessary to keep up with the current international hotspots and keep abreast of the latest developments. For example, since President Trump assumed office, the United States has frequently “retreated”. This reflects that the international community is undergoing major changes, and the entire international order has become more chaotic. In an era of change, how Chinese social organizations face and grasp the opportunities of this era requires deep thinking. In addition, in order to participate effectively in the activities of the United Nations, it is necessary to grasp the rules of international exchanges, the most important of which is the participation mechanism of the United Nations system. The United Nations is dominated by a limited number of developed countries, and many developing countries, including China, rarely use the United Nations mechanism to

speak less, and it is more difficult to increase their influence in the United Nations. Social organizations can actively use the United Nations platform to maintain a good image of our country, but only if they are familiar with the operational mechanism of the United Nations and participate in the activities of the United Nations effectively and orderly.

Fifth, we must vigorously cultivate international talents. The biggest advantage of social organizations lies in the flexibility of the mechanism and the professionalism of the personnel. To exert these advantages, it is necessary to cultivate international professional talents of social organizations. For example, in the fields of medicine, education, environmental protection, and law, we can give full play to the advantages of professional talents and promote their deep participation in civil diplomacy. In recent years, the Chinese government has paid more and more attention to the training and recommendation of talents for international intergovernmental organizations, but the training and support for social organization talents is far from enough. This has affected the foreign exchange work of social organizations in China to a certain extent. To this end, all parties should increase the training and support of talents in international social organizations.

(Translated by Bian Peilin)

# **Contributing More Chinese Wisdom to the Belt and Road Initiative: Exploration and Practice of the China Region Development & Reform Institute**

Yu Jin

As the "Belt and Road" is gaining ground with higher quality, China's think tanks have played a unique role in facilitating policy communication, enhancing people-to-people connectivity and promoting practical cooperation, and have contributed a lot of "Chinese wisdom" to the development of BRI. Among them, the China Region Development & Reform Institute (hereinafter referred to as the CRDRI), as an important comprehensive think tank in China, has put the research and cooperation in the development of BRI high on its agenda and achieved remarkable results.

## **Full Support for BRI**

The BRI is an active exploration of the Chinese government on the new model of international cooperation and global governance. In the past six years, focusing on "connectivity" in politics, economy, culture, diplomacy and ecology, China has been proactively building economic partnership with the BRI countries, seeking to jointly forge with them a community of shared interests, future and responsibility with mutual political trust, economic integration and cultural inclusiveness. In this process, when Chinese enterprises and institutions "go out" and export huge commodities and capital to foreign countries, they need all-round protection from the state. One type of protection is "hard protection" and

the other is "soft protection". The latter is where think tanks could exert crucial influence.

To safeguard national interests, the CRDRI has strengthened its research on BRI countries, conducting in-depth and long-term "fixed-point" research on each country, each field and each specific issue. Through comprehensive and systematic studies of politics, economy, culture, diplomacy, religion, military affairs and other aspects, we evaluate risks that China may encounter in the BRI countries, provide advices to our government for decision-making and protect our overseas interest. At the same time, we should also strengthen the exchanges between our think tanks and the think tanks, parliaments and political parties of the BRI countries in order to play a unique role in expanding and consolidating the political foundation.

To provide full support for BRI, the CRDRI has paid attention to the overall and systematic nature of theoretical research on BRI countries. At the same time, based on the concept of regional cooperative development, the legal system development shaped by legal thinking has provided effective guarantee and support for BRI.

First, we have looked at the spatial and temporal features of BRI as a whole. When studying the

BRI, the CRDRI has thoroughly examined its international and domestic background and deeply understood that the vision of BRI was a product that conforms to the trend of the times and changes in international and domestic situations. Studying the profound historical and cultural foundation for the formation and development of the ancient Silk Road, we have clearly understood both domestic and international situations, and are aware of where it came from and where it is going. It is neither behind the times nor beyond the current historical stage. Secondly, we have carried out the BRI research with strategic thinking. In the light of development and universal relation, we have understood that the BRI is a systematic project that involves both domestic and overseas efforts and calls for interdisciplinary research.

Since the BRI was put forward, it has received high attention from the international community and positive responses from relevant countries. However, it also faces problems such as uncoordinated regional development, imperfect cooperation mechanisms, and insufficient cultural exchanges. To evaluate the effects of BRI today and ensure its effective development in the future, the CRDRI has attached great importance to the role of the two key variables in BRI: key projects and coordinated regional development.

Finally, the legal system development itself constitutes the standardization, rationalization and coordination of the BRI development. The legal system development in China and BRI countries, as well as cooperation between them, will help optimize the implementation environment of the BRI development. This not only benefits political stability and trade environment of the BRI countries, but also will promote the optimization of the overall environment of BRI. The legal system development itself is closely related to the trend of global economic development and regional cooperation, and will promote the building of a community of shared

future for mankind.

### **The Think Tank Industry Has Achieved Remarkable Results in "Going Global"**

The think tank industry refers to the all-intelligent industrial chain that integrates the intellectual resources of high-end talents and takes innovative talents as the core under the background of economic globalization. The CRDRI has creatively put forward that the key to the success of the think tank industry is to create a new industrial system that integrates the policy chain, talent chain, industrial chain, technology chain and capital chain.

The major participants of the think tank industry include government, enterprises, research institutions and think tanks, which play different functions. The essence of the "five-chain coordination" is market-oriented and enterprise-led. The think tank industry can be understood as "think tank+", namely "think tank+ government decision-making", "think tank+high-end talents", "think tank+high-end industry", "think tank+financial market", "think tank+scientific research consultation". This has led to the formation of an all-intelligent industrial chain driven by the open government policies, the gathering of high-end talents participating in government affairs, the gathering of high-end industries, the integration and interaction of financial markets, and scientific research and innovation.

In fact, the CRDRI pays special attention to strengthening the integration and interaction between think tanks (high-end talents) and industries (mainly high-end industries). The think tank industry can and should become the cornerstone of the modern industrial system. By doing so, think tanks can make the modern industrial system bigger and stronger, and new momentum for the development of think tanks can be found to avoid self-circulation in the industry, thus realizing the win-win pattern of think tanks and industries and laying a solid foundation for the construction of a modern economic system.

It is worth mentioning that the Beijing High Quality Development Report (2018-2019) said that the think tank industry may become one of the new economic growth points in Beijing.

The foundation for the think tank industry to "go global" is that a new system that adapts to the innovation environment of different participants should be established, making the strategies clearer, the decisions wiser and the implementation more efficient. In promoting the BRI cooperation, the think tank industry can serve as "chip", providing intellectual support and cooperation platforms

In 2012, commissioned by the municipal government of Erenhot, the CRDRI carried out research on the major topic of "Strategic Planning for the Development of China-Mongolia-Russia Think Tank Industrial Park in Erenhot". Experts were organized to conduct research on China-Mongolia-Russia, SCO and the Grassland Silk Road. The first draft of the project report was finished in 2013 and the final report was reviewed and approved in 2014. It can be said that the establishment of the China-Mongolia-Russia International Think Tank Industrial Demonstration Zone in Erenhot is one of the results of the combination of theory and practice in the efforts of building the think tank industry system by the CRDRI.

As a think tank, the CRDRI has initiated relevant research and practice on the China-Mongolia-Russia International Think Tank Industrial Demonstration Zone, which is of significant influence. First, it has become the "indomitable" bridge linking local and the central government and connecting the think tank industry and economic development. Second, it can be regarded as the first case of local governments purchasing intellectual services from think tanks in China. Third, its role in the creation of an international think tank industrial demonstration zone has sparked discussion on the development of the think tank industry in China.

It can be seen that with the popularization of the concept of the think tank industry, the construction of think tank industrial demonstration zones is being actively carried out in China. In November 2011, the strategic cooperation agreement on China Intellectual Valley (Northeast) Think Tank Industrial Park, China's first "intellectual valley", was signed in Shenyang. On June 21, 2018, the 2018 "Shenyang: China's Intellectual Valley" Promotion Expo was held in Beijing to comprehensively promote the project to representatives from all walks of life in Beijing attending the conference in terms of industrial foundation, human resources and policy support in Hunnan District of Shenyang City. On February 7, 2018, China's Intellectual Valley: Chongqing, the think tank industrial park in southwest China was officially unveiled in Nan 'an District of Chongqing City. Focusing on three directions, namely big data, big health and big ecology, it aims to build a "four-in-one" industrial and ecological circle featuring policy support, platform service, guidance and incubation, and supporting services. It will build an intelligent terminal industrial cluster area, an intelligent operation platform cluster area and an intelligent manufacturing innovation cluster area, and is committed to building a city of AI talents in China.

### **Continuing to Develop International Cooperation Projects**

In recent years, the CRDRI has been continuously developing international cooperation projects and actively participating in international affairs. In 2013, the CRDRI established a think-tank-based strategic partnership with the United Nations Development Program. As the only civil think tank from China that has signed a contract with the Institute, it has contributed to the sustainable development goals of the United Nations. On September 25, 2015, at the United Nations Development Summit, the recommendations of the CRDRI were reflected through the United Nations Development Program.



At the same time, the CRDRI's cooperation with high-end think tanks in Europe and the United States has been quite effective. A good relationship has been established between the CRDRI and the Polish Economic Congress Foundation. Starting from 2013, the annual "China-Poland Think Tank Dialogue" has well boosted China-Poland relations and Poland's participation in the BRI, which has actively advocated and promoted the establishment of the BRI Promotion Joint Committee between China and Poland. The CRDRI and the Romanian BSEC Project Foundation are also strategic partners. A Romania-China BRI Promotion Joint Committee has been established in Bucharest to initiate dialogue platforms for cross-border regional cooperation organizations such as the "China+Visegrad Group Think Tank Alliance" and "China+BSEC Think Tank Alliance".

Think tanks are one of the sources of innovation. International cooperation among think tanks is based on coordination, which will promote the effective integration and promotion of innovation in the CRDRI. This underlies the CRDRI's promotion of a fair and reasonable model of global governance, which can help to establish a development model that is balanced and inclusive. Specifically, first, we should promote the institutionalization of think tank cooperation, especially the holding of meetings annually. Second, the role of think tanks as platforms for public diplomacy and dual-track diplomacy will be further enhanced to promote the effective upgrading of cooperation between think tanks and link the think tank industries. Third, we should provide a reliable platform for more domestic and foreign think tanks to carry out effective exchanges.

What can be made clear is that the BRI has become

the focus of the current and future work of the CRDRI. To get further involved in the Initiative, the overall layout of the Institute focuses on the following two aspects:

One is to promote research on the BRI and provide more reliable, effective and comprehensive intellectual support for the implementation of Initiative. Among them, it is especially prominent that the existing BRI research team should be upgraded and improved, and the research on China-Poland relations and the relations between China and Central and Eastern European countries should be further strengthened, with necessary guidance from the academic committee of our Institution.

The second is to further promote the CRDRI's participation in the BRI with substantive actions. We should advance the "think tank+BRI" Action Plan, which is based on the cooperation between China and Europe (including think tank industrial parks, banking and finance, sports and football, etc.). Meantime, we should also pay attention to China's coastal areas which are actively responding to the BRI (including the crucial think tank industrial park construction) by providing effective intellectual support.

At the same time, in terms of publicity, the CRDRI will use international exchanges, international cooperation, public diplomacy and other opportunities to further promote the dissemination of the BRI.

*(The author is a Council member of the Chinese Association for International Understanding and President of China Region Development & Reform Institute)*

**[Editor's Note]** The Silk Road Community Building Initiative, launched by the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) at the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in Beijing in April, provides support and assistance to NGOs of various countries in carrying out people-to-people exchanges, seminars, mutual visits and public welfare projects related to people's livelihood. This event has been listed in the outcome of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, with the aim to establish 500 partnerships among NGOs in countries along the Belt and Road and carry out 200 livelihood programs. In the first half of 2019, the launching ceremony of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative has been held in Mongolia, Bangladesh and Indonesia. In the second half, it was held in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China, Romania, the Republic of Congo and Tanzania.

## Launch of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Xinjiang

On September 6, 2019, the launching ceremony of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative for China-Pakistan (Xinjiang-Balochistan) was held in Urumqi. Aierken Tuniyazi, member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Xinjiang Uygur Regional Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Government of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Amanullah Khan Yasinzai, Governor of Balochistan, Pakistan and Liu Kaiyang, Deputy Secretary-General of China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) attended and addressed the ceremony. Participants totaling around 50 including heads of relevant government departments and NGOs from Xinjiang as well as all members from Balochistan Tribal Chiefs Delegation invited by CNIE attended the event.

In Aierken Tuniyazi's speech, he briefly reviewed the important achievements made in Xinjiang's active

endeavors in building the Belt and Road core area since the inception of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He said that Xinjiang is an important bridge to promote China-Pakistan cooperation with its prominent advantages and enormous potential. He stressed that the exchanges and cooperation between Xinjiang and Balochistan is a key component of that between China and Pakistan. The Silk Road



Community Building Initiative has brought about new opportunities for further enhancing friendly people-to-people exchanges and cooperation. The Chinese side is willing to work together with the Pakistani side to advance people-to-people connectivity and promote high-quality development of the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor core area as well as to make due contribution to improving the well-being of the two peoples.

Amanullah Khan Yasinzai said that the Silk Road Community Building Initiative is an important proposal, which will play an important role in enhancing people's friendship, expanding NGO cooperation and promoting common development for the Belt and Road countries. Social forces from Pakistan, especially from Balochistan feel very delighted to participate in this Initiative. He hoped that, with the joint efforts of all parties, the Initiative can serve as an enabling brand to build new platforms for and inject fresh impetus to people-to-people exchanges and cooperation between BRI countries.

Liu Kaiyang, Deputy Secretary-General of CNIE, expressed that CNIE stands ready to work together with NGOs, relevant government departments of BRI countries to promote people-to-people exchanges and cooperation as well as people's friendship. CNIE will play a positive role in advancing the building of a community with a shared future for humanity based on the principle of consultation, cooperation for shared benefits.

Following the launching ceremony, CNIE hosted China-Pakistan Civil Society Symposium on September 10 in Beijing, during which the Pakistani side had in-depth exchanges with representatives from organizations including the Red Cross Society of China, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, China Cultural Heritage Foundation, China Medical Association, China Foundation for Lifeline Express and China Overseas Ports Holding Company Limited and reached initial consensus on conducting livelihood projects like Panda Pack Project and nursery bags donation project in Pakistan.

## **Launch of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Romania**

On September 23, 2019, the Silk Road Community Building Initiative was launched as part of the joint efforts by China and Romania to build the Belt and Road.

"The Belt and Road is an ambitious initiative that will bring prosperity to the world and a new economic impetus in Romania," said Minister of Economy Nicolae Badalau at the launching ceremony held in the historical Ghica Palace in downtown Bucharest. He also voiced support for the ensuing cooperation at

the local level.

The Silk Road Community Initiative focuses on cultural and people-to-people exchanges and the cooperation in areas concerning people's livelihood within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a China-proposed global development initiative with a focus on infrastructure construction.

Mme. Xu Lvping, Vice President of the CNIE, expressed her hope that the Silk Road Community



Initiative will help enhance bilateral non-governmental exchanges, local livelihood and the foundation for stronger China-Romania friendship.

Jiang Yu, the Chinese ambassador to Romania, said

the Silk Road community move adds new elements and impetus to the bilateral BRI cooperation.

Describing the Belt and Road as "an extremely generous initiative, an economic catalyst," Cornel Lozneau, Executive Vice-President of the Romania-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said he believes the Silk Road community to be built "will pave the way for easier and quicker and more useful cooperation among our organizations."

Valeriu Tabara, head of the Romanian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, said, "Today's event proves that the Belt and Road means more than asphalt roads, it's about humans and their interactions at all levels."

## Launch of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative in the Republic of Congo

On 13th December, 2019, the opening ceremony of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative kicked off in Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of Congo (hereinafter referred to as Congo). H.E. Ji Bingxuan, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding, H.E. Ma Fulin, Chinese ambassador to Congo, H.E. Leon Alfred Opimbat, First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Congo attended this event, together with NGO representatives from China and Congo.

When addressing the ceremony, Ji Bingxuan said China and Congo are good friends, good brothers and good partners, and the bilateral relations are

an exemplary model for developing countries. We hope to take the opening ceremony of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative as an opportunity to carry out people-to-people exchanges, promote livelihood cooperation, continuously strengthen the social and public support for Sino-Congo friendship and contribute to a closer China-Africa community of shared future.

Leon Alfred Opimbat expressed warm congratulations to the launch of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative. He stressed that the friendship between our two nations had a long history and grew stronger over time. The Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Congo will set up a broad platform for NGO cooperation of the two



countries, which will further promote people-to-people connectivity and people's well-being. It is of great significance to jointly build the Belt and Road Initiative and a community of shared future between China and Congo, as well as China and Africa.

Ji Bingxuan and Leon Alfred Opimbat unveiled the Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Congo. NGOs from China and Congo signed a couple of cooperation agreements.

The Silk Road Community Building Initiative provides support and assistance to NGOs of various countries in carrying out people-to-people exchanges, seminars, mutual visits and public welfare projects related to people's livelihood. This event has been listed in the outcome of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, with the aim to establish 500 partnerships among NGOs in countries along the Belt and Road and carry out 200 livelihood programs.

## Launch of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Tanzania

On 19th December, 2019, the opening ceremony of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative was launched in Dar es Salaam. H.E. Ji Bingxuan, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding, H.E. Wang Ke, Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, H.E. Job Ndugai, Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania attended this event, together with 150 NGO representatives from both countries.

When addressing the ceremony, Ji Bingxuan said the ultimate goal of jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative and deepening China-Tanzania friendship is to benefit the two peoples, which cannot be achieved without mutual understanding and trust between the two peoples. We hope NGOs from both countries could make good use of the platform of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative, adhere to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, give full play

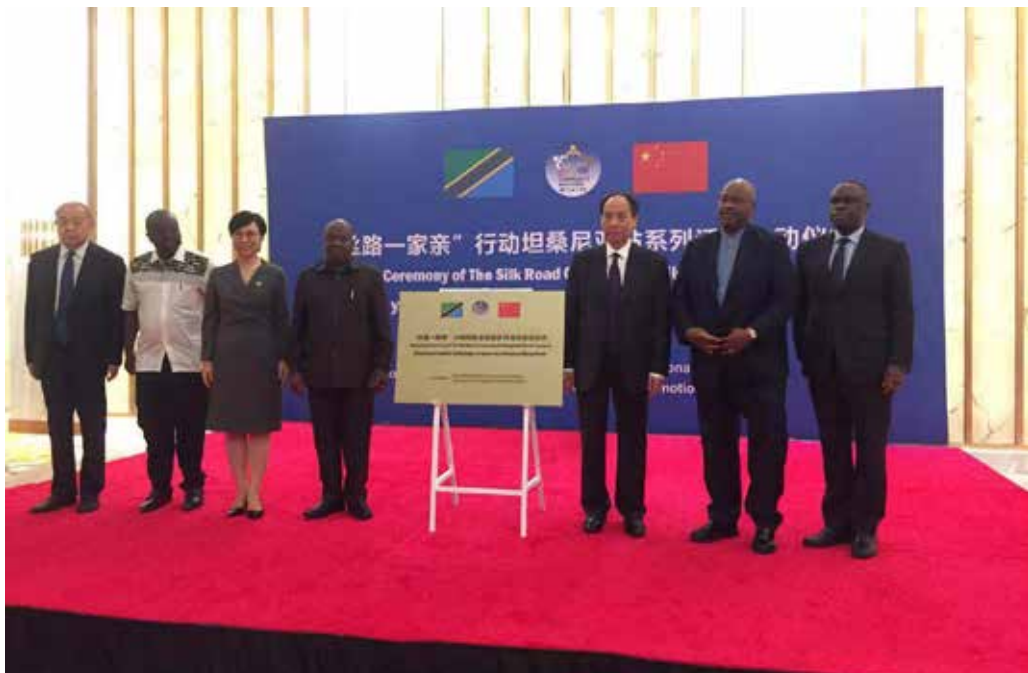


to our role in connecting the people and enhancing mutual understanding, let more people share the rich fruits of the Belt and Road Initiative, and contribute to the economic and social development of our two countries and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Job Ndugai said friendship between Tanzania and China had a long history and was unique. China is a true friend of Tanzania. This event is a good start for NGO cooperation of both countries. He hoped that NGOs from our two countries could cooperate extensively and upgrade the cooperation model in the future.

Chinese Friendship Medal winner, Tanzanian former Prime Minister, President of China-Tanzania Friendship Association H.E. Salim Ahmed Salim said in his written address, that the launch of Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Tanzania reflects the friendship between China and Africa, will promote people-to-people exchanges and cooperation and further deepen our friendship.

Ji Bingxuan and Job Ndugai unveiled the Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Tanzania. NGOs from China and Tanzania signed a couple of cooperation MOUs on people-to-people exchanges and livelihood cooperation.



# China in the Eyes of Cambodian People: China's Reform and Opening up will Extend to the Whole World

——Written on the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China

**[Editor's Note]** The author of this article Chea Munyrith is Director of Department of Program Management of Civil Society Alliance Forum of Cambodia. Devoted in Chinese culture research, Chea, as former Dean of Confucius Institute of Cambodia, presided the translation of Xi Jinping—The Governance of China into Cambodian. Chea writes this paper on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, elaborating his understanding on the relations between China and Cambodia and the rest of the world.

Leaders of all developing countries are willing to know—how could China, in just 70 years' time, leap from a poverty-stricken, underdeveloped “Sick Man of East Asia” to an “East Asia Giant” with its over one billion people having good supplies of food and clothing. When Chinese officials visited Cambodia,

their first impression was that the development of Cambodia now is very like that of China in the 1980s and 1990s and the national conditions of Cambodia is very like that of China before Reform and Opening Up. I quite agree with this argument and therefore I am extremely interested with the development policy



of China in the 1980s and 1990s.

Cambodian officials once made extensive and thorough discussion on how China governed the country to make such great achievements. We are very interested in the book Xi Jinping—The Governance of China in which many details are worthy of our learning. Under the concerted efforts of Confucius Institute of Royal Academy of Cambodia, on April 11, 2017, the Cambodian edition of Xi Jinping—The Governance of China was officially launched. On the issuing ceremony of this book, Prime Minister Hun Sen highly praised this book as it represents the essence of China's experience in building Socialism with Chinese Characteristics. Hun Sen called on officials of Cambodia to study the successful experiences of China and try to practice them in their own job.

When receiving the interview of People's Daily of China, I wrote the following comments: the development and progress of Chinese society is inseparable with its policy of Reform and Opening Up. Firstly, China provided more than one million people with ample food and clothing. Improvement of people's livelihood and their participation in economic construction formed a virtuous circle, in

which people were both participants and beneficiaries of China's reform. Secondly, the infrastructure of the whole country was fundamentally improved, which accelerated rapid development of whole China. Thirdly, in the process of China's Reform and Opening Up, merits of traditional Chinese culture such as diligence, entrepreneurship and innovation further deepened China's reform. Investment, technology and diversified culture China obtained from different countries in the process of its opening up also contribute to the development of China.

The Communist Party of China (CPC) is the designer and leader of the policy of Reform and Opening Up. Without a central leadership and solidarity, such a large country would become a heap of loose sand. The CPC excellently performs its role by leading people of China forging ahead towards the right direction. The CPC can be seen in everywhere, from leadership of the country to the grass-roots of society, and can always fulfill its historical missions, thus winning the trust of the Chinese people. China's Reform and Opening Up will not be interrupted, instead, it will be gradually deepened, which call for wisdom and powerful support.

The social system of China is designed in accordance



with the history and national condition of China and is therefore unique. For instance, the system of people's congresses emphasizes on keeping close relationship with people, finding, researching and resolving problems, as well as adjusting reform policies according to changes of situation in different phases. The core socialist values of China, promoting prosperity, democracy, civility, and harmony, upholding freedom, equality, justice and the rule of law, advocating patriotism, dedication, integrity, and friendship, can only be proposed and carried out in social system like China.

The advantage of the current governance guidelines of China is becoming more and more prominent. Compared with its western counterparts, which solely emphasizes political democracy, this system stresses more on improving people's livelihood and giving full play to people's initiative. China not only focuses on domestic and regional affairs, but also possesses a global perspective—it has the determination and ambition to create a better future with the rest of the world. This also adds the confidence of Cambodia to build a better country of our own.

China integrates into the world and the world embraces China. If the world is a clock composed by different countries, then China is one of the largest gears. China is generous and inclusive to share its own development experience with the rest of world. Over the past 40 years, Reform and Opening Up has not only changed China, but also changed the world. Actually, the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by China is extending China's reform to a higher level, with China joining hands with other countries to build a better world together. Other countries should

take China as their model. China has the China dream, and Cambodia has our Cambodian dream. All countries have the dream of peaceful development, thus the whole world having the momentum of development.

Facts prove that the world cannot prosper without the development of China. In the near future, the reform of the rest of the world will turn out to be the extension of Reform and Opening Up of China. At present, the Reform and Opening Up of China is exerting positive influence on the world in more and more aspects. Going ahead, the ties between China and the rest of the world are bound to be even closer. Therefore, Reform and Opening Up of China is bound to be deepened and China is bound to realize common development with the rest of the world by strengthening cooperation with different countries. It has been proved that the pragmatic pattern of China have significant influence on other countries—under the influence of China, many countries are actively developing their countries and have made great progress. Various programs and enterprise investments are contributing to the development and improvement of people's livelihood of both China and the cooperating nations. The actual achievements of Belt and Road Initiative are luring more and more hesitating countries taking part into this great plan.

In the end, congratulations on the 70th anniversary of the founding the People's Republic of China and sincerely wish China become more and more prosperous.

(Translated by Ma Jiatai)

## **China in the Eyes of Japanese People**

### **——Written on the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China**

On October 1, 2020, the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, I am honored to watch the grand military parade of China on the reviewing stand located at Tian'anmen Square of Beijing. Ten years ago, I participated in the parade review marking the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China. At that time, I determined to visit Beijing again and watch the military parade commemorating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Indulged in the pleasure of realizing my dream, I sincerely appreciate my Chinese friends offering me such a valuable chance.

The reason why I am so keen on presenting the 60th and 70th anniversary is that I was born in 1949—the same year as the establishment of the People's Republic of China. Ten years ago, when the People's Republic of China was celebrating its 60th anniversary, I was 60 years old. And in 2019, I am 70 years old. As my name is “Banli”, which means tens of thousands of kilometers in Chinese, and the 70 years' history of the People's Republic of China coincides with my life, therefore, I was extremely excited.

The 70-year history of China can be roughly divided into five phases. This can be seen from the arrangement of celebrating ceremony at Tian'anmen Square on October 1, especially from the military parade of PLA and people's parade.

In the first phase, under the leadership of Chairman Mao Zedong, China began to bravely construct a brand new country on the basis of a poverty-stricken “old China”. Of course, such heated zeal once brought a period of economic, political and cultural chaos for the country.

In 1972, after breaking off relations for a long period, Japan and China resumed diplomatic relations. On September 18, 1931, Kwantung Army of Japan schemed the Manchuria Railway Explosion in Liutiaohu in the suburb of Shenyang in Northeast China, starting the 14-year unfortunate history between Japan and China. This misfortune ended till 27 years after the end of the war, which is of great significance. In this process, Chinese leaders such as Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai played a significant role.

I first visited China in 1975, three years after the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and China. During that visit, Liao Chengzhi, President of Sino-Japanese Friendship Association and Sun Pinghua, Secretary-General of the Association met with us and explained to us the importance of Sino-Japan friendship. Influenced by this event, I determined to become a statesman and strive to make my contribution to the development of Sino-Japan relations.

In the second phase, China restored the leading role of Deng Xiaoping in the Party and began to



vigorously promote the Reform and Opening Up policy. This policy was launched during the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the CPC in December 1978. In 1992, the theory of “socialist market economy” was established in China. At that time, many economists of Japan believed that “socialism and market economy are incompatible with each other”. I didn’t agree with this idea. In a nutshell, “socialist market economy” means that land is owned by the government and the right to the use of land could be freely traded in the market. The practice of separation of ownership and use-right makes great contribution to the development of the Chinese economy and is worth praising. Similar thinking can also be seen in Singapore, and it has been historically accepted in Asia.

In 1985, in former Soviet Union neighboring China, Mikhail Gorbachev was promoted to General Secretary of Central Committee of Communist Party of Soviet Union. The reform promoted by Gorbachev featuring liberalization and democratization finally failed.

The third phase is the times of Jiang Zemin, then-president of China. On the celebration on October 1, 2019, Mr. Jiang Zemin also came to the Tian’anmen Square. Although he is 93-year-old, he is in good health. The times of Jiang Zemin was marked by his inheritance of the guidelines set by Deng Xiaoping and realized Hong Kong’s return to the motherland.

During this period, in 1997, Asia was confronted with a major economic crisis. Jiang Zemin took decisive measures to curb the crisis, which deserves affirmation. Although the huge financial expenditure mobilized by Jiang Zemin caused the debt issue of China afterwards and is now still influencing Chinese economy, without his resolute judgment and measures, the influence of Asia economic crisis would have been worse and Japan would also have been impacted, which was unimaginable.

In May 1999, as a member of the delegation of

Democratic Party of Japan, I was received by Jiang Zemin in Beijing. In 1998, Jiang Zemin visited Japan and statement on historical understanding possessed most of his schedule in Japan. During his visit in Japan, he also wrote the banner saying “Remember the past and it will guide your future. We should take history as a mirror and look into the future” in 16 Chinese characters for us. I am still keeping this banner.

In one of the processions at Tian’anmen Square, behind the huge portrait of Jiang Zemin, people held high the banner reading “adhere to the important thought of ‘Three Represents’”. “Three Represents” means the CPC has always represented the development trend of China’s advanced productive forces, the orientation of China’s advanced culture, and the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the Chinese people. This important thought further promoted the all-round development of China’s reform and opening up policy.

The fourth phase was the times of Hu Jintao, then-president of China. In the winter of 1993, when I visited China, I had the honor to meet with Hu Jintao, then-member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. At that time, I was just elected member of the House of Representatives.

Hu Jintao was a new leader promoted when the policy of Reform and Opening Up entered into a new era. Hu Jintao possesses a personal charisma of charming and courteous. In Japan, there are many fans of Hu Jintao and I am one of them. In 1998, political parties of Japan invited Hu Jintao, then-Vice President of China, to visit Japan. I still remembered that I was in charge of reception on behalf of the Democratic Party and Shinzo Abe, now Prime Minister of Japan, was in charge of reception on behalf of the Liberal Democratic Party. Abe and I went to greet our distinguished guest Mr. Hu besides the aircraft gangway in Haneda Airport.

When he became President of China, whenever I met him in Beijing or Tokyo, he always greeted us with enthusiasm and warm smile.

Hu Jintao advocated the governance of country with the thought of “harmony”. Thanks to Reform and Opening Up, Chinese economy gets developed. However, some people who failed to keep in pace with the trend of development began to be unsatisfied. Hu Jintao noticed these problems in time and proposed the thinking of “harmony”, emphasizing on coordinated development. This thinking is very appropriate at that time.

The first high-speed rail of China, which received attention from the whole world, ran into operation at the age of Hu Jintao. This series of high speed trains were also named “hexiehao”, which means “train of harmony”.

The fifth phase is the well-known era of President Xi Jinping. Before he became the leader of China, Mr. Xi had been playing a leading role in anti-corruption. Economic development is closely related with the phenomenon of corruption in the wealthy layer of the society. In order to continue to win trust and support from the people, the CPC has to keep fighting against corruption.

The Belt and Road Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping brings development opportunities for both China and all countries in the Eurasian Continent. At first, Japanese government was not in favor of this initiative. However, it is now assessing the Belt and Road Initiative positively. Win-win cooperation between China and other Eurasian countries is climbing onto an apex, which we should warmly

welcome this trend.

People are convinced that under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, the GDP of China will exceed the United States and become the world’s largest. In current China, frontier technologies like AI are evolving with each passing day. People say China is an “economic power”. In my opinion, it is more appropriate to say that China is a “digital power”. Objectives listed in the “Made in China 2025” plan will facilitate China's transformation from a manufacturing giant with a focus on quantity to one with a qualitative edge.

I am looking forward to attending the celebrating ceremony and watching the parade marking the 80th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China ten years later. Due to my age, I am not sure whether my health permits me to achieve my wish. The life of every individual is limited. However, as long as the policy is appropriate and the people are sturdy, the development of every country is bound to be sustainable.

In the end, I would like to sincerely congratulate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and extend my appreciation to Chinese leaders and hard working Chinese people who have made outstanding contribution to the development of China.

(The author is Member of the House of Representatives of Japan, Supreme Counselor of the Constitutional Democracy, President of the 21st Century Sino-Japan Society.)

(Translated by Ma Jiatai)

# Guangxi NGOs Committed to Promoting People-to-People Exchanges with Foreign Countries

In 2019, Guangxi's Non-governmental Organizations actively engaged in the Belt and Road Initiative to promote closer people-to-people ties among countries along the Belt and Road. Guangxi NGO Network for International Exchanges (GNIE) and its members have taken solid steps to contribute to the building of the Belt and Road Initiative, China's neighborhood diplomacy and Guangxi's economic and social development.

## **I. Serve China's neighborhood diplomacy to earnestly promote closer people-to-people ties**

The Guangxi People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (GXPAFFC) has made an all-out effort to develop international sister cities by taking ASEAN as the main direction, thus forging the major platform for Guangxi's NGOs to go global. In 2019, by faithfully following through on the policy of taking neighbors as friends and partners, bringing harmony, stability and prosperity to the neighborhood, and highlighting the principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, the GXPAFFC gave priority to developing sister city relationship with ASEAN and reaped satisfactory outcome. As of December 31st of 2019, Guangxi has established 115 pairs of sister cities with 37 countries of 5 continents across the world, ranking fourth nationwide. Among these, 53 pairs are established with ASEAN countries, ranking first nationwide.

The GXPAFFC has actively carried out youth exchanges to enhance the public opinion foundation

between China and foreign countries. In July 2019, the GXPAFFC successfully organized a 28-member high school student delegation to visit Japan. During the visit to Kumamoto Prefecture, the delegation conducted a number of exchange activities with Kumamoto University and Toryo High School. The face-to-face exchanges have forged closer ties between the youth of China and Japan, thus making positive contribution to enhancing the friendship between the two countries. In October 2019, the GXPAFFC successfully organized 2019 China Youth Envoy of Friendship Delegation to pay a visit to the Republic of Korea for friendly exchanges. During the visit, the 30-member delegation learned about the economic and social developments of the ROK, experienced its local culture, and attended the lecture on ROK-China relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ROK. All this has further enhanced Chinese youth's knowledge and understanding of the ROK.

The Red Cross Society of China Guangxi Branch and the Red Cross of Lang Son Province of Vietnam signed the Memorandum of Cooperation to encourage NGOs to participate in international humanitarian cause. From October 14th to 17th 2019, the Red Cross Society of China Guangxi Branch organized a 6-member delegation to visit the Red Cross of Vietnam, the Red Cross of Lang Son Province and the Red Cross of Ho Chi Minh City, and signed Memorandum of Cooperation with the Red Cross of Lang Son Province. The Red Cross

Society of China Guangxi Branch and the Red Cross of Lang Son Province agreed to establish regular contacts, offer assistance and support to each other when major disasters set in, share experience in such aspects as emergency aid and care, emergency rescue, humanitarian aid, voluntary blood donation and volunteer services, and carry out exchanges and training for the Red Cross staff in the three years ahead, to name just a few.

## **II. Serve the Belt and Road Initiative and actively undertake and attend international events**

The Women's Federation of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (GXWF) has successfully organized the China-Central Asia Women's Forum, pooling the power of women to jointly build the Belt and Road Initiative. To fully implement the guidelines of the address by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the 7th China (Guangxi)-Central Asia Cooperation Forum was held in Nanning of Guangxi from October 17th to 19th 2019, pending which GXWF organized the China-Central Asia Women's Forum, with practical outcome being scored. The Forum was attended by 100-plus participants, including representatives from 5 countries of Central Asia, 13 countries from Transcaucasian region and ASEAN, and representatives from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Secretariat, the diplomatic missions of Central Asian and Transcaucasian countries in China, and female international students from Central Asian and ASEAN countries in Guangxi. Shen Yueyue, Vice Chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Vladimir Norov, Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization addressed the opening ceremony of the Forum. Norov noted that the SCO Secretariat stands ready to create favorable conditions for women from various countries to achieve win-win development. The successful holding of the China-Central Asia Women's Forum will enable women to become the

dynamic and sustainable force for jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative.

The Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (GXFROC) has held a series of flagship events to tell Guangxi stories to the rest of the world. In March 2019, GXFROC, together with the Confederation of Guangxi Overseas Chinese UK, held "Guangxi Sanyuesan" culture and gourmet festival in the United Kingdom (note: "Sanyuesan" is a traditional festival of Zhuang minority which falls on the 3rd day of the 3rd lunar month). From April 2nd to 4th 2019, GXFROC successfully held "Building Dreams of Five Continents-2019 World Overseas Chinese Fangchenggang (Dongxing) Gathering" which was attended by over 500 overseas Chinese leaders and businessmen. The gathering witnessed the signing of the strategic cooperation framework agreement of Chambers of Commerce on developing the Belt and Road Western Land-Sea New Corridor, and promoted the signing of the investment project on developing characteristic town by Overseas Chinese from Dongxing. In May, GXFROC guided the USA Guangxinese Association to exhibit Guangxi's ethnic clothes and dance at the 13th New York Dance Carnival with a view to popularizing the distinctive ethnic culture of Guangxi. The afore-mentioned events have helped Chinese culture and distinctive Guangxi culture to go global, contributing to closer people-to-people ties.

The Association for Science and Technology of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (GXAST) has successfully held the 3rd Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp & Teacher Workshop to unleash the vitality of science education. From September 24th to 30th 2019, 300-plus teenager science lovers as well as science teachers from 37 countries, regions and international organizations gathered in Guangxi's Nanning City to attend the grand event. The event has opened a fresh window for China's international non-governmental science exchanges, and contributed

positively to the building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind by taking teenagers as the envoys of friendship who can help deepen cooperation.

### **III. Promote business and trade cooperation through people-to-people exchanges to serve Guangxi's economic and social development**

The China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Guangxi Committee (CCPITGX) has created the initiative of “bringing Guangxi products to countries along the Belt and Road” in a bid to foster and bolster Guangxi’s local brands to go global. In January of 2019, CCPITGX issued the Three-year Action Plan to Bring Guangxi Products to Countries along the Belt and Road (2019-2021). Since its launch, the program has received extensive attention from and active participation by Guangxi enterprises. Chen Wu, Governor of Guangxi, inaugurated the initiative of “bringing Guangxi products to countries along the Belt and Road” at its Germany station and Austria station. The Promotion event was held to attract 45 enterprises to exhibit and promote their 150-plus kinds of products and find their business partners. To seek cooperation with Africa, CCPITGX held Guangxi Procurement and Investment Fair with Representatives of 16 African Countries. 60 enterprises from 16 African countries participated in the Fair and tried to find their business partners from Guangxi enterprises engaging in 7 major industries. The Fair succeeded in bringing about the intended

procurement worth some 80 million U.S. dollars. At present, the initiative of “bringing Guangxi products to countries along the Belt and Road” has established overseas warehouses in Germany, Austria and Kyrgyzstan. Guangxi enterprises there are entitled to exhibiting and trading their products at the overseas warehouses all the year round, thus providing new platform and channel for Guangxi enterprises to expand their overseas market.

Guangxi Chamber of International Commerce has supported the convening of international events to forge Guangxi’s own local brands and enable them to be an integral part of the international cooperation network. The events include: Introduction to the Central and East African Market under the initiative of “bringing Guangxi products to countries along the Belt and Road”, China (Guangxi)-Vietnam (Dong Nai) Entrepreneur Project Matching, China-Japan-ROK Health Industry Forum, China-Europe Intelligent Industry Development Forum, China (Guangxi)-Central Asia Characteristic Products Exhibition, and China Satellite Navigation System Exhibition, among others. These exhibitions and conferences can help businesses to seek new opportunities by strengthening the contact and cooperation with relevant foreign agencies and enterprises.

(Translated by Qu Tao, Guangxi Foreign Affairs Office)





## Sincerity Brings China-Japan Friendship Forward

In April, 2019, the opening ceremony of the China-Japan Youth Exchange Promotion Year was held in Beijing. The two sides agreed to arrange for the exchange and visits of 30000 young people in the next five years. As one part of it, a 114-member youth delegation led by Yuki So, President of Shorinji Kempo Unity (SKU) from Japan, paid a friendly visit to Henan in August, 2019.

SKU, founded by Dojin So in 1947, is one of the important China-friendly groups in Japan. Its founder is far more than a good friend to China. While SKU being a non-governmental organization, its members come from all walks of life like politics, business, and even in the royal family of Japan as its social influence grows. Now, it has 1.9 million registered members and around 3,000 training centers in 29 countries and regions across the world.

Yuki So has been awarded the China Friendship Award and the Yellow River Friendship Award. In May 2009, she was awarded the China Japan Friendship Envoy. For several times, she has met with many Chinese leaders including former President Hu Jintao, former Premier Wen Jiabao and Premier Li Keqiang during her trips to China. She has also been invited as guest lecturer by Zhengzhou University.

### **The visit of SKU to Henan in August, 2019**

It is the second time for Yuki So to visit Henan in 2019. Henan People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (HPAFFC) has actively facilitated this visit by exploring new ways for cultural exchanges with diverse forms, which has improved the mutual understanding and planted

seeds of friendship among the youth of the two countries.

During their stay in Henan, the delegation experienced many local cultures and traditions such as Shaolin Kung Fu, Paper-cutting, TCM culture and Baduanjin exercises during their visits to Zhongyue Temple, Shaolin Temple, the Medical History Museum and Pharmaceutical History Museum. Face-to-face interactions were also arranged in Zhengzhou Middle School and Zhengzhou University to promote mutual learning and understanding among students. Before returning home, the youth delegation were deeply bonded with their new friends in China.

Undoubtedly, the successful visit of SKU is the result of the relentless efforts made by Henan in order to develop long lasting friendly exchanges between the two peoples .

President Xi Jinping noted that “People-to-People bond holds the key to state-to-state relations”. The future China-Japan relations lies in people of the two countries. The Chinese government supports and encourages more communications among people from all walks of life, especially among the younger generation. It is required that the dedicated efforts of



the youth to firmly pursue good-neighborly relations to continuously sow the seeds of friendship and witness its growing from trees to dense forest.

Currently, guided by President Xi Jinping's diplomatic thoughts and under the leadership and support of the People's Government of Henan Province, HPAFFC has maintained an active role in promoting exchanges and frequent visits with Japan in sectors such as economy, culture, sister city relations and public welfare, and has made great achievements.

### **Achievements of activities with SKU**

The youth represents the future and carries on goodwill for the future. Since the first visit to China with her father Dojin So in 1975, Yuki So has visited China for nearly 70 times in more than 40 consecutive years, of which nearly 30 times to Henan with Japanese youth delegations.

In the last five years, SKU has organized several student delegation visits to Henan, all of which have more than a hundred students of different ages. Accordingly, HPAFFC helps SKU arrange their visits to universities or middle schools to meet Chinese students of their similar age, with the expectation that the visit will broaden their horizons and enhance mutual understanding on different cultures. During their visits, the Japanese students walked hand-in-hand with Chinese students on the campus, sat side-to-side in the classroom, exchanged views about Chinese traditional arts and herb medicine, and visited some beautiful cultural and tourist attractions, etc. Moreover, they felt at home when staying with their Chinese friends' families. The visits have strongly deepened their mutual trust and learning, and contributes immensely to future China-Japan friendly exchanges.

Building connectivity between peoples through cultural exchanges, Shaolin culture in particular. SKU and Shaolin Temple enjoy a long history of exchanges and cooperation. Dojin So had practiced martial arts from his early childhood. In the 1930s, he

visited China for learning Kung Fu from his Chinese teachers. Since then, he had been deeply influenced by Shaolin Kung Fu. When Dojin So returned to Japan in 1946, he reorganized the various boxing techniques learned in Shaolin Temple and founded SKU in Kagawa, Japan in 1947, with the aim to help young Japanese strengthen their bodies and develop the spirit of Kung Fu "Peace originated from martial arts exchanges".

Under the leadership of Dojin So and his daughter Yuki So, SKU keeps growing with larger members practicing Shaolin Boxing in Japan. The connotation of "combine Zen with Martial arts" of Shaolin Kungfu has been carried forward.

In 1979 and 1980, two Japanese delegations led by Doshin So visited Shaolin Temple in Henan respectively to restore their old friendship. To show respect and praise for Dojin So, a monument has been set up in Shaolin Temple to memorize his return. The inscription on it reads: "Shaolin martial arts originated from central China and is well developed across the world. The Japanese monk Dojin So learned Shaolin Kungfu in the temple and developed it to Japanese Shaolin Boxing, enriching it with 25 series and more than 600 skills. His deeds help the Chinese traditional culture take root, blossom and bear fruits in Japan. Masters Dojin So is not only an excellent teacher of Shaolin temple boxing in Japan, but also a great promoter of people-to-people connectivity between China and Japan."

After the passing of Doshin So, his daughter Yuki So followed his steps to further promote the vigorous communications between SKU and Shaolin Temple. With concrete actions and joint efforts of HNP AFC and SKU, more Japanese delegations with members from all walks of life, especially the young Japanese, came to Henan to study Shaolin Kung Fu. For several times, boxers from Shaolin Temple are invited to Japan for Kungfu exchange tour.

On the occasion of celebrating the 1500 years anniversary of Shaolin Temple, Yuki So paid a visit to the Temple to extend her congratulation, with 1.5 million Japanese Yen donated to fix the Drum Tower.



Besides that, SKU has made 4 more donations to support the cultural relics protection projects of Shaolin Temple including the restoration of murals in White Hall.

It is Shaolin Temple that connected SKU and China and start their first communication. Bridged by Shaolin Kungfu, people from the two sides have further enhanced mutual understanding in the course of all-round friendly exchanges.

Commitment to public welfare. For many years, SKU has participated in many other projects in relation to non-profit undertakings. It donated 6 million yen to establish Shaolin Hope Primary School in Dengfeng where Shaolin Temple locates in 2006. Besides, a total of 34,000 Japanese books have been donated to Zhengzhou University which finally contributed to the establishment of "Doshin So Library" in 2015 in the University in order to support the development of Japanese teaching and learning in Henan.

Big support for Henan's foreign exchanges with Japan. Since the beginning of Reform and Opening Up, Yuki So has introduced big Japanese companies to visit Henan and pushed forward the bilateral cooperation. Also she has actively bridged the two sides to develop sister city relations at both provincial and city levels. Since the first establishment of friendship relationship between Henan and Mie at provincial level in 1985, cities of Henan have

established sister relations with 12 Japanese cities so far, which significantly strengthened Henan's foreign exchanges as well as China-Japan economic and trade cooperation.

Over the years, more than 10 official delegations at provincial level and 20 more business groups from Henan have been received by SKU in Japan along with its constant support for Henan to boost exchanges with its Japanese counterparts. Furthermore, 24 young government officials in Henan from sectors of foreign affairs,

business, and tourism have obtained the chance to study in Japan with financial assistance from SKU in the past 30 years, which build up a talent pool to help Henan's opening up and the foreign exchanges.

### **Experiences and Practices of HPAFFC**

Activities in line with the call for good neighboring countries and mutually beneficial cooperation. For many years, HPAFFC has played its leading role in practicing people-to-people diplomacy in Henan, and actively integrates its work with the demands of Chinese diplomacy and Henan's overall economic and social development. Great importance has been attached to developing sound communications with non-governmental organizations of Japan, especially with SKU, which in turn has promoted Henan's friendly cooperation with Japan and advanced win-win development.

Bring more friends with sincerity. To earn more friends is one of the important part of people-to-people diplomacy. President Xi Jinping put forward the concept of building strong relations with its neighbors based on friendship, good faith, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, stressing that only in this way can China have more friends and partners .

For 40 years, HPAFFC has been committed to consolidate the friendship with SKU, making heartfelt organization and considerate arrangements

for its every visit to Henan. With fruitful two-way exchanges, well developed donation projects, and sincere interactions, HPAFFC has established sound and stable friendship with SKU, connecting Henan and Japan closely and making a growing number of Japanese friends from both nongovernmental and other social organizations.

Extend friendship with SKU to better showcase Henan. Thanks to the joint efforts of HPAFFC and SKU, more Japanese people come to China and Henan to participate in colorful exchange activities. Many of them are deeply impressed by the great changes of China with its amazing economic and social developments, in particular by the great history and achievements in Henan.

In the meantime, HPAFFC has always been active in communicating with SKU to bridge Japan and Henan at different levels. The extensive exchanges cover government service, culture, economic and trade cooperation as more cities from Henan engaged in exchanges with Japan. This greatly demonstrated that the positive role it can play in serving local economic development by broadening international exchanges with Henan.

Look to the future. "A tree reaching the sky must solidify its roots, and waters flowing far must drain their fountainheads." Young people are the main promoters and the key to the development of China-Japan relations. As a main player in leading and coordinating international cultural exchanges, HNAFFC keeps carrying out fruitful activities to build deeper mutual trust between young people from both countries.

Thanks to the constant efforts, more Japanese are showing stronger willingness to engage in youth

exchanges. Bringing up new generation to carry on our friendship will be a far-reaching significant element of deeper friendly China-Japanese relations.

President Xi Jinping noted that people-to-people exchange is the foundation for promoting world peace and development and an indispensable element for win-win cooperation. "The key to sound relations between states lies in amity between the people. The amity between the people lies in the connectivity between their hearts". State relations not only require the "hard" support from intergovernmental exchanges, but also the "soft" connectivity from people, which is also based on mutual trust.

From the new starting point, HPAFFA will keep building up stronger friendship with SKU and make further contributions to the everlasting friendship between China and Japan.

- 1.The youth delegation of Japan enjoys the performance of Shaolin Kungfu in Shaolin Temple
2. Mutual exchanges about Chinese herb between Japanese and Chinese students
- 3.Field visits of Japanese youth delegation to the Medical History Museum and Pharmaceutical History Museum in Henan
- 4.Performance of Shaolin boxing by Japanese students in Zhengzhou University, Henan
- 5.The Japanese students practice Taiji at Zhengzhou Middle School in Henan
- 6.Paper-cutting experience of Japanese students at Zhengzhou Middle School in Henan

*(Contributed by Henan People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries)*

(Translated by Zhang Yanli)

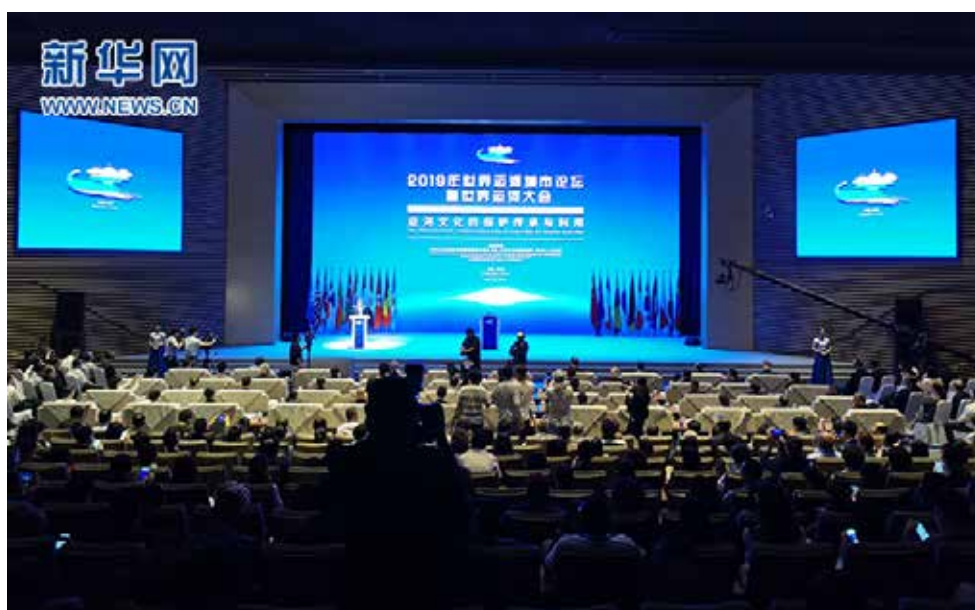


## 2019 World Canal Conference Held in Yangzhou, China

On Sept. 27th, 2019 World Canal Conference was held in Yangzhou, jointly organized by People's Government of Yangzhou City, the World Canal Historical and Cultural City Cooperation Organization (WCCO), and the Inland Waterway International Organization (IWI).

The Conference was presided over by Yu Ting, Vice Mayor of Yangzhou City. Xia Xinmin, Mayor of Yangzhou City, said in his speech that on the occasion of 70th anniversary of the founding of People's Republic of China, Yangzhou ushered in many a happy event: being recently named the Capital of East Asian Culture; and the World Canal Conference

held again in Yangzhou after 7 years. On behalf of Yangzhou Municipal Party Committee, Yangzhou Municipal Government, and the 4.6 million Yangzhou people, he extended a warm welcome to the leaders and guests from afar! And his sincere thanks to friends from all walks of life for supporting Yangzhou to host the World Canal Conference! As the city of origin of the Grand Canal, the leading city of application for World Heritage, the city at the junction of the construction of the Yangtze River Economic Belt and the Grand Canal Cultural Belt, next Yangzhou will further implement the "Outline of the Grand Canal Cultural Protection, Inheritance





and Utilization Plan”, carefully build some key projects, such as China Grand Canal Museum, the Grand Canal National Cultural Park etc., actively promote the spirit of canal culture of “communication, openness, tolerance, and enterprising”, consciously strive to be a model of canal heritage protection, inheritance, utilization and international exchanges, and strive to make Yangzhou a famous international cultural tourism city.

Carlos Gutierrez, former US Secretary of Commerce and honorary chairman of WCCO, sent a congratulatory letter. Former Panamanian President Barrera and former Secretary-General of Boao Forum for Asia Zhou Wenzhong, etc. also attended the meeting and congratulated the convening of the conference.

Zhu Minyang, chairman of the WCCO, one of the organizers, pointed out in a subsequent keynote speech that the canal is a treasure left by our ancestors. People of the canal city have lived here for generations, and have created a brilliant canal culture. Jiangsu is the origin of China’s Grand Canal. The Jiangsu section of the Grand Canal runs more than 790 kilometers from north to south. Most of Jiangsu’s famous villages, towns and cities were born out of the canal and thrived by the canal, and all were engraved with the unique mark of the canal. Yangzhou is known as “the First City of China’s Grand Canal”. The long history of the development of the canal has endowed Yangzhou with a special historical status and evoked the people’s gratitude for the mother of the canal. China’s canal cities are willing to work with canal cities around the world to share development experience, promote mutually beneficial cooperation, and build a community of shared future for the world’s canal cities.

WCCO hopes to strengthen cooperation with canal cities around the world in jointly promoting the

protection of canal cultural heritage, the construction of canal ecological civilization, the integrated development of canal culture and tourism, the legislative protection and legal management of the canal, and the construction of a community of shared future for the world’s canal cities etc. In the meantime, WCCO and the Inland Waterway International Organization (IWI) are like-minded old friends, and the two sides are tied up by the canal, both taking the protection, development, utilization and management of canals around the world as a common responsibility and common cause. Their concept is highly compatible, and a good cooperative relationship and mutual membership is established between them. WCCO will strengthen the linkage with IWI, deepen the communication and cooperation of the canal cities around the world, strengthen the identity of the canal cities around the world, expand the circle of friends of global canal cities, make the canal better benefit the people of the world, and make unremitting efforts to build a community of shared future for mankind.

The conference consists of three sub-forums, namely, the Canal Cultural Protection, Inheritance and Utilization, the Canal Ecological Construction, and the Integrated Development of Canal Culture and Tourism, which are presided over by WCCO expert Diao Mingsheng, the President of the Beijing Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Promotion Association, the former ambassador to Benin; He Zhigeng, the Secretary-General of the Chahar Society, and WCCO expert Liu Chengfu, the Executive Vice President of the China African Studies Association. There being about 200 people, including nearly 100 foreign guests, participated in the three sub-forums, with representatives respectively from 24 countries and regions around the world, including the United Kingdom, France, and Germany etc., from more than

20 international canal cities including Leipzig, Breda, Ghent etc., and representatives from 11 international organizations including the United Nations Environment Program and American International Urban Management Association etc., as well as representatives of the embassies and consulates in China from the country where key canals are located, representatives of the Silk Road Golden Bridge International Think Tank, the China Grand Canal Cultural Belt Construction Think Tank Summit, and government representatives of some cities along the Grand Canal in China. Discussions and exchanges on the topics of the three sub-forums were held among representatives of cities, institutions, and canals, from Ghent, Belgium, Saimaa Lake Canal in Finland, Breda, Netherlands, Scottish Canal Company, Indian Observer Research Foundation, Hua County, Henan Province, Cangzhou City, Hebei Province, Shaoxing City, Zhejiang Province and China Office of United Nations Environment Programme etc.

The World Canal Conference will be held in Leipzig, Germany, next year, and under the auspices of Deng Qing, WCCO Secretary-General, a flag handover ceremony is held among Yu Ting, Vice Mayor Yangzhou, David Edwards May, IWI President and Ulrich, Vice Mayor of Leipzig .

In the concluding speech, IWI Chairman David Edwards May spoke highly of the careful arrangements and serious preparations made by Yangzhou and WCCO for the conference. The conference was a complete success, and everyone made in-depth and full discussions on the respective

areas of their concern. He sincerely hoped that China's Grand Canal culture construction would score greater achievements.

(Translated by Li Ruifang)



# Jointly Build the Belt and Road Initiative with a Two-Wheel Drive

## ——International Work of The Amity Foundation

With the development of economy and society, China's comprehensive national strength has been continuously enhanced and its international influence has been increasing. China is shouldering more international responsibilities and obligations to make greater contributions to building a community of shared future for mankind by "always being a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development, and a defender of the international order". In March 2015, President Xi Jinping put forward the concept of the Belt and Road Initiative, which not only pointed out the way for Chinese social organizations to participate in international affairs, but also opened up unprecedented opportunities for Chinese social organizations to further participate in global governance.

The Amity Foundation (hereafter referred to as "Amity"), as a development institution that has received extensive support from international community during its growth, has carried out various forms of international cooperation and exchanges with more than 300 institutions in over 20 countries and regions over the past 34 years. Amity believes that in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative building in the new era, it will help the world understand better and more fully a "going out" China by promoting Chinese social organizations to carry out international exchanges and cooperation, foreign aid, and to participate in the governance of

international affairs. It will also promote the people-to-people contact among the countries along the Belt and Road, thus create a cooperative atmosphere of mutual respect and increasing consensus for the Belt and Road Initiative, and will help China achieve the goals of China's international strategy and enhance its international status.

### I. Combination of "Bringing in" and "Going out"

Amity has practiced international exchanges and cooperation of social organizations since its inception in 1985. For more than 30 years, Amity has adhered to the purpose and goal of "making joint contributions under the principle of mutual respect and interfaith harmony, carrying out friendly exchanges with people at home and abroad", as well as "promoting friendly exchanges and ecumenical sharing of resources among people of all countries", and it has embarked on a practical path of combining "bringing in" and "going out" in the field of international cooperation. In the first two decades, Amity helped the economic and social construction of poor areas through the "introduction" of international resources and technology. At the same time, Amity has established unique advantages for its internationalization by setting up a wide network of international cooperation, familiar with the operation of international cooperation processes and rules, as well as accumulating a wealth of international project operation experience. In the past ten years, Amity

has further conformed to the requirements of national development and the trend of the times, “centering around sharing and deepening the process of international cooperation”, it identified “international exchanges and cooperation”, “project globalization attempts” and “exploration of institutional internationalization ” as the strategic direction of Amity in the new era. Amity began to gradually shift from “absorbing” international resources to “feeding back” to international community, and started a “going out” feedback model. For more than three decades, the ways and means of Amity’s internationalization have changed, but the basic elements of Amity’s strategy have remained unchanged, namely, “promoting friendly exchanges and ecumenical sharing of resources among people of all countries”.

## **II. Partner Network + International Assistance**

Amity has developed the ability to “go out” in its efforts to give back to international community. Amity’s international exchanges and project cooperation covers 23 countries and regions around the world, and the fields of cooperation are extensive and diverse. Cooperation takes the form of partnership network construction and the development of international assistance. Among them, the construction of partner network is characterized by the construction of cooperation platform, and the development of dialogue and exchange, etc. International assistance is mainly manifested in the provision of immediate, unpaid assistance and support to poorer developing countries in the form of donations, emergency relief and assistance; practical project supports are carried out to assist the region according to local conditions through internationalization of local brand projects; and efforts are made to mobilize local grass-roots organizations and community participation to achieve sustainable and normal development of the project through local implementation of international aid projects.

Amity has made active attempts and explorations

in building a global partnership network. In 1987, Amity established the European Network of Amity Partners (ENAP) in Europe to expand its partners and cooperation resources in Europe and around the world. In July 2014, Amity was granted consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which allowed Amity to communicate and interact with international social organizations on the stage of UN; since 2015, Amity has set up Amity’s Offices in Ethiopia, Geneva, and Kenya, which has expanded a broader platform for further international exchanges and cooperation for Amity. In response to the establishment of the Ethiopian Amity Africa Office in 2015, China Philanthropy Times commented this ended the “Four No’s” in the “going out” process of the Chinese Foundation (no fixed funding sources, no fixed projects, no local employees and no fixed office).

In terms of international assistance, Amity has carried out projects in a number of fields outside China, including Biogas Digester Construction, Drought Relief, Typhoon Haiyan Disaster Relief, Earthquake Relief Projects in Madagascar, Kenya, the Philippines and Nepal, as well as Overseas Volunteer Exchange Projects in Norway, Japan, Germany, etc. While giving play to the non-governmental diplomatic power of social organizations, it has enhanced communication and understanding between different countries, nationalities and cultures.

## **III. The “Two-wheel Drive” of Social Enterprise and Philanthropy**

In the localization of the project, Amity tried the innovative model of “Two-wheel Drive of Social Enterprise and Philanthropy”. Since its establishment four years ago, the Amity Africa Office has been committed to projects such as Education and Development for Poor Children in Africa, Humanitarian Relief for Natural Disasters, Medical Support for Poor Patients, Climate Change Improvement, Professional Development of Poor Single Mothers, and Capacity Building for Youth in the Slums. On August 9, 2019, Amity established



Amity Kenya Office and Amity Printing Kenya Office in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, which signified that Amity had taken a solid new step in implementing China's Belt and Road Initiative and implementing the strategy of "Going Out" through Two-wheel Drive of "Philanthropy and Social Enterprise". The office has currently launched the following activities: the Kenya Dream School Project, which are vocational education activities such as to provide vocational education for slum youths, youth artistic interest development, aiming to help Kenyan youth explore the path of development; to provide Youth Team Leadership Training for the elite youth, and to develop future partners for Dream-making Foundation and the Amity Foundation in combination with China-Africa Youth Exchanges and International Youth Volunteer Training Projects etc. In the future, the Kenya Office will further show to the world Chinese philanthropy, Chinese culture, tell Chinese stories well, and build a bridge for cultural exchanges between China and Africa; and it will actively consolidate consensus and inherit the spirit of the Silk Road, and make a modest contribution to Africa's economic and social development.

### 1. Living Water Project, Heart to Heart Connection

The frequent occurrence of natural disasters in Somalia, Ethiopia, and years of drought, coupled with a variety of factors, including the clan conflicts have led to the displacement of nomadic Somali people, and their living conditions are in dire straits. In 2017, after paying attention to the disaster in Somalia, Amity first went to the local area for investigation and found that many villages in the Fafan region of Somalia lacked water storage infrastructure, health conditions were worrying, acute water-like diarrhoea (AWD) spread locally, and women and children were burdened with long-distance water collection for families. Amity has jointly raised nearly 4 million yuan among Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Disaster Relief Fund, Tencent Charitable Foundation, and Chinese enterprises in Ethiopia etc., and launched the "Living Water Project" in Ethiopia,

which aims to ease the water supply and sanitation problems in 9 villages of Fafan. The implementation of the "Living Water Project" has benefited 48,000 local people and improved water conditions. The project has received strong support from Chinese and Egyptian government agencies, Chinese enterprises in Ethiopia, international agencies and local communities. Amity continues to pay attention to the water supply and sanitation needs in the disaster-stricken area of Ethiopia, and works with partners in various fields to provide effective assistance and support to the affected population.



*Staff of the Amity Foundation asked the beneficiaries about the implementation of the project. (Figure 1)*



*Fill the Amity sanitary storage tank with water under the supervision of the Local Water Board. (Figure 2)*



## 2. Small Schoolbags, Carrying the Future

Ethiopia is dominated by agriculture and animal husbandry, with a weak education foundation, and the current situation of basic education is worrying. The inability of poor local families to pay for their children's school supplies is an important reason for children to drop out of school. To this end, Amity launched the "Small Schoolbag, Carrying the Future Project", which provides learning tools for poor children in Ethiopia to help them meet their basic learning needs and receive education in a better way. In the past two years, Amity has provided basic school supplies of one year, such as small schoolbags, pencils and books to nearly 1,000 poor children in Ethiopia by raising funds from the Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Jiangsu Province, Tencent Charitable Foundation, and local Chinese-funded enterprises etc. and other caring people, which aims to improve their learning conditions, and protect children's right to a fair education. The implementation of the Ethiopian Schoolbag Project will actively promote the completion of schooling for children in poor areas and increase their possibility of obtaining development opportunities in the future.



*Employees of the Amity Printing Africa Service Center and local Chinese volunteers are actively involved. (Figure 3)*



*Love schoolbags and stationery purchased locally in Ethiopia (Figure 4)*



*Children are particularly happy to receive gifts from China, and full of hope for the future. (Figure 5)*

## 3. Coffee Bond, China-Ethiopia Love

Ethiopia is the birthplace of coffee, and Amity cooperates with Ethiopia's caring Chinese-funded company Le Bunna to gain a new cross-border achievement---Amity Coffee, which aims to call on people in China to pay attention to difficulties and challenges Ethiopia faced through Ethiopian coffee, and advocate Chinese people to support Ethiopia's poverty alleviation and development.

Each packet of Amity Coffee includes a one-dollar donation to support poor children in Ethiopia. This is a concrete testament to the development model of "taking it locally and using it locally". The First Amity Coffee was sold online and offline simultaneously through the social enterprise Amity Bakery in September 2018. On the day of the

release day, Amity and Amity Bakery, Le Bunna, and other caring entrepreneurs in Nanjing Golden Eagle G-takaya Bookstore jointly launched a theme salon activity called “When Philanthropy Meets Commerce”, which has received a lot of attention and support from the fields of commerce and philanthropy. By the end of 2018, the first batch of 14,000 packets of Amity Coffee had been sold, and all the donations of 14,000 yuan were used to support the Ethiopia Small Schoolbag Project, which helped nearly 100 poor students in Ethiopia. In 2019, Amity joined hands with HON Coffee Studio to launch two new products, Yirgacheff and Sidamo, and cooperated with Amity Bakery to pack Amity Coffee into the Mid-Autumn Mooncake Gift Box, hoping that more caring coffee lovers enjoy the good coffee time, at the same time, pay attention to the distant Ethiopia and support the poor children there.



*The First Amity Coffee (Guji Hambella) launched in 2018 (Figure 6)*



*Amity Coffee Packed into Mooncake Gift Box launched in 2019 (Figure 7)*

Amity will continue actively to respond to the requirements of the new era of the country, practice the Belt and Road Initiative, implement the “going out” strategy of two-wheel drive through “Philanthropy and Social Enterprise”, continue to develop on the “going out” road of China’s social organizations, further show the Chinese philanthropy to the world, make a Chinese voice on the international stage, show the soft power of social organizations, make continuous exploration of feeding and giving back to international community, and make contribution to the great rejuvenation of Chinese nation.

*(Contributed by the Amity Foundation)*

*(Translated by Li Ruifang)*

## International Exchanges

On June 3, Shen Xuesong, Deputy Secretary-General of the China Education Association for International Exchange, met in Beijing with Torill Iversen Wanvik, senior advisor of the Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education, and Alf Rasmussen, Secretary General of the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions. The two sides exchanged views on the practical cooperation between the education sectors of the two countries.

From June 6 to 8, the 23rd St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF 2019) was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, with the key topic of “Creating a Sustainable Development Agenda”. At the invitation of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Russia Federation, Liu Limin, President of China Education Association for International Exchange, attended and delivered a keynote speech at the special forum on “education globalization”. Russian Minister of Science and Higher Education Mikhail Kotyukov attended the forum.

On June 7, the 2019 China-CEEC (Central and Eastern European Countries) Mayors Forum, co-sponsored by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Ningbo Municipal People's Government, was held in Ningbo. The theme of the forum was “implementing new ideas and promoting new development”. Local government leaders from China and CEEC, diplomatic envoys from CEEC to China, representatives from the business community, academia and media attended the event.

From June 10 to 11, the 2nd China-South Asia Cooperation Forum was held in Yuxi, Yunnan province. Representatives from South and Southeast

Asia, the Indian Ocean region, Europe and Oceania and relevant international organizations attended the forum. Under the theme of “Stronger Sub-National Partnership for Win-Win Opportunities”, the forum set up a number of topics including economy and trade, poverty reduction, dialogue between provincial governors and mayors, culture, media and BCIM regional cooperation.

On June 14, Cultural Exhibition of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), co-sponsored by the embassy of DPRK in China and the China World Peace Foundation was held in Beijing. Jong Hyon U, Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to China, Li Ruohong, President of China World Peace Foundation, and Xu Qiang, Secretary-General of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries attended the exhibition.

On June 15, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the China-Japan Friendship Association and the Matsuyama Ballet of Japan jointly held “China-Japan Friendship Ballet Performance on the Celebration of 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China” in Beijing. More than 800 people including representatives from all walks of life, ballet lovers and media representatives from China and Japan watched the performance.

From June 15 to 17, at the invitation of the National Parliament of Bangladesh (Jatiya Sangsad), Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and President of Chinese Association for International Understanding visited Bangladesh, met respectively with Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, speaker of the Bangladeshi

Parliament and Deputy Speaker Fazle Rabbi Miah, and attended the establishment ceremony of the China-Bangladesh Friends of Silk Road Club and the Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Bangladesh.

From June 17 to 20, at the invitation of the Parliament of Singapore, Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and President of Chinese Association for International Understanding, led a delegation to visit Singapore, met respectively with Emeritus Senior Minister and Former Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Deputy Speaker Lim Biow Chuan, and Grace Fu, Minister of Culture, Community and Youth. He also visited headquarters of People's Association and attended the symposium on exchanges and mutual learning between China and Singapore.

On June 19, the handover ceremony of the China-Cambodia well-digging project of "Friends on the Silk Road", assisted by the China Foundation for Peace and Development, was held in Cambodia. Kem Reat Viseth, Secretary of State of the Office of the Council of Ministers of Cambodia and Chairman of Cambodia's Civil Society Alliance Forum and Ouch Phea, Governor of Takeo Province attended and addressed the ceremony. More than 200 people, including teachers, students and representatives of surrounding residents, participated in the activity.

On June 20, hosted by China Law Society, the 6th Conference on Legal Risks and Countermeasures of International Investment and Trade was held in Guangzhou, with the theme of "deepening 'Belt and Road' cooperation on the rule of law and building an open world economy". More than 200 representatives of the legal and business communities from 36 countries and regions in five continents attended the conference.

On June 20, Zhang Haidi, Chairperson of China Disabled Persons' Federation and Rehabilitation International, met with President of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés and her delegation in Beijing. The two sides had in-depth exchanges on safeguarding the equal rights and interests of disabled persons and

promoting the integrated development of disabled persons.

On June 21, the launching ceremony of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Indonesia was held in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia. Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and President of Chinese Association for International Understanding, together with Sampono, Deputy Speaker of the Regional Representative Council of Indonesia and other officials, inaugurated the Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Indonesia. The opening ceremony was followed by a meeting of Chinese and Indonesian social organizations, during which nearly 50 social organizations from the two countries conducted in-depth coordination on strengthening people-to-people exchanges and cooperation on people's livelihood, and reached a number of cooperation intentions.

On June 24, the Third World Eatology Forum was successfully held in Awaji Island, Japan, with the support of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the Japanese Foreign Ministry on the eve of the 2019 G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan. Wu Hongbo, former Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and president of the China Association for International Public Relations, attended the forum and delivered a keynote speech.

On June 26, the China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS) held a side meeting at the United Nations Human Rights Council and delivered a speech on anti-terrorism in Xinjiang. Chen Tong, Director of CSHRS and Dean of the School of Political Science and Law at Xinjiang Normal University, said the most serious long-term threats facing Xinjiang were violence, terrorism and ethnic separatist activities. Social stability and long-term security were the most important human rights in Xinjiang.

On June 26, Wang Chen, Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central committee, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) and President of the China Law Society, met in Beijing with a delegation of senior officials from the ruling coalition



led by the leader of Chilean National Renewal, Mario Desbordes and the leader of Political Evolution, Hernán Larrain Matte. The two sides had in-depth exchanges and discussions on inter-party exchanges and cooperation between the NPC of China and the National Congress of Chile.

From July 1 to 6, at the invitation of the African National Congress of South Africa, Xu Jianguo, Secretary-General of China Foundation for Peace and Development, led a joint working group to South Africa to investigate poverty alleviation projects. Officials from Beijing Capital Agribusiness Group were also in the delegation. Bwane and Gadija Brown, Deputy Governor of the Free State of South Africa, and Lin Songtian, Chinese Ambassador to South Africa accompanied the joint working group on its inspection visit. During the visit, the working group visited cattle farms, slaughterhouses and related villages submitted by the foreign side and had in-depth exchanges on future cooperation between the two sides.

On July 2, with the assistance of the Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce, the Seminar on Investment Opportunity between Thailand and Shaanxi Province, co-sponsored by Thailand Board of Investment and Chongqing Chamber of Commerce, was held in Xi'an. The seminar aimed at strengthening communication and exchanges between Thailand and Shaanxi on investment policies, environment and opportunities, building a platform for cooperation between enterprises of both sides, and promoting Shaanxi enterprises to go out and invest in Thailand. More than 150 representatives from Thailand and Shaanxi attended the meeting.

From July 3 to 12, at the invitation of the Faculty of Law of the University of Copenhagen, International Association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy, Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, Li Rulin, Vice President of the Chinese Law Society, led a delegation of six people from the Chinese Law Society to visit Denmark, Switzerland and Germany. The delegation attended the 29th World Congress of the International

Association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy in Lucerne, Switzerland. Under the theme "dignity, democracy and diversity", the conference was attended by more than 1,300 jurists from the United States, Germany, Italy, Argentina, Brazil, Finland, Switzerland etc.

From July 9 to 11, the Second Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, co-hosted by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation, the Russian Export Center, the Government of the Sverdlovsk Region. Nearly 3,000 senior government officials, business leaders, experts and scholars from 53 countries and regions, including Austria, Brazil, China, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Russia, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and the United Kingdom, attended the summit. As a global strategic partner of the summit, China Federation of Industrial Economics (CFIE) sent a large high-level delegation, led by Xiong Meng, Executive Vice-Chairman and Secretary General of CFIE to participate in the summit.

On July 11, Wan Azizah, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia and minister of Women, Family and Community Development and her delegation visited the China Rehabilitation Research Center for Hearing and Speech Impairment and met with Cheng Kai, Vice chairman of China Disabled Persons' Federation and its Board of Executive Directors. The two sides had in-depth exchanges on conducting more extensive and in-depth cooperation for disabled persons and jointly promoting the protection of the rights and interests of disabled persons and the development of undertakings for disabled persons in the international community.

On July 11, under the guidance of All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese (ACFROC) and University of Science and Technology of China, the 2019 Chaohu Overseas Chinese Entrepreneurship Summit was jointly held by Anhui Provincial Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese and Hefei Municipal People's Government in Hefei. Li Zhuobin, Vice President of ACFROC attended and addressed



the opening ceremony. Song Guquan, Member of the Standing Committee of CPC Anhui Provincial Committee and Secretary of CPC Hefei Municipal Committee, Bi Jinchu, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Committee and Secretary of the Commission for Discipline Inspection of the University of Science and Technology, leaders of overseas Chinese federation in Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Yangtze river delta, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and other provinces and cities, as well as more than 220 domestic and overseas high-tech talents and guests attended the event.

On July 12, the Myanmar Office of China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, Hong Kong Shining Star Investment Co., Ltd and Chinese Enterprises Chamber in Myanmar held a joint material donation ceremony at the Mary Chapman School for the Deaf in Yangon. In order to improve the quality of school facilities in some parts of Yangon, Hong Kong Shining Star Investment Co., Ltd, together with the China Enterprises Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar and the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation Myanmar Office donated ten million kyat to purchase relevant materials to help three schools in Yangon.

On July 15, the 9th China International Civil Servant Capacity Building Project, hosted by the United Nations Association of China, supported by the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, and organized by Nankai University, was launched in Tianjin. About 230 trainees from more than 80 universities and institutions at home and abroad participated. Established in 2011, the China International Civil Servant Capacity Building Program aims to train reserve talents for international organizations and contribute China's strength to the development of international organizations such as the United Nations. During the 9-day program, senior officials of international organizations, senior diplomats in the multilateral field, experts and scholars would give lectures on the international situation, China's multilateral diplomacy, United Nations issues and the examination system of international

organizations.

On July 17, the 4th China-U.S. Sister City Conference, co-hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and Sister Cities International, was held in Houston, Texas, with the theme of "40 Years Ahead: Stronger Friendship, Closer Cooperation". Guests from both sides such as Xie Yuan, Vice President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Li Qiangmin, Chinese Consul General in Houston, Liu Jianyang, Mayor of Nanchang city, Peng Daiyuan, Deputy Mayor of Guilin City, Ron Nirenberg, Mayor of San Antonio of Texas, and 200 representatives of local governments, enterprises, and education institutions from 16 Chinese provinces and municipalities directly under the central government, 21 cities in 11 states of U.S. attended the meeting to discuss topics such as innovation and smart cities, the Maritime Silk Road and its impact, metropolitan cooperation and future economic growth, and Sino-foreign education exchanges, so as to strengthen the ties between China-U.S. sister cities and promote practical cooperation at the sub-national level.

From July 18 to 20, a delegation from the China Foundation for Human Rights Development visited Austria and had discussions with officials from the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Development Agency and the Vienna State Parliament. The two sides discussed judicial protection of human rights, protection of the rights and interests of women, children and ethnic minorities, as well as immigrants, and universal education on human rights. They had an in-depth exchange of views on maintaining public security and protecting the people from violent terrorism and religious extremism.

On July 19, the opening ceremony of the Seminar on Public Service and Poverty Reduction for Ethiopia in 2019, hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and organized by the China International Poverty Reduction Center, was held in Beijing. Dr. Tan Weiping, Deputy Director of the China International Poverty Reduction Center, addressed the opening

ceremony. Jantirar Abay Yigzaw, Advisor to the Ethiopian Prime Minister and Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction, delivered a speech on behalf of the students.

On July 26, the 4th Council of the Chinese-Arab Friendship Association (CAFA) was founded, followed by a celebration reception in the same night in Beijing. Arken Imirbaki, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress was re-elected as the President of CAFA and attended the above activities. The meeting introduced achievements of CAFA in enhancing people-to-people exchanges and assisting the building of the Belt and Road. Participants also made proposals on our future work. Diplomats from 17 Arab embassies in Beijing attended the reception.

On July 29, a delegation of four members from United Nations Office for Project Services visited All China Environment Federation (ACEF). Xie Yuhong, Secretary General of ACEF, Li Ruidong, Deputy Secretary General of ACEF, and relevant leaders of the department of international cooperation and green finance committee received them. The two sides held cordial and friendly exchanges on the UN sustainable development goals, green Belt and Road construction and other topics.

On August 1, the first "Light of China", Lantern Show of Chinese culture organized by the European Association for the Promotion of Cooperation with China opened in Italy. Song Jingwu, Vice President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Xu Rong, Cultural Counsellor from the Chinese Embassy in Italy, Wang Huijuan, Deputy Consul General of the Chinese Consulate General in Milan, Fabio Bouy, Governor of Padova Province, Italy, Marco Toson, Chairman of the European Association for the Promotion of Cooperation with China attended the opening ceremony. Besides, more than 200 representatives from Italian China-friendly organizations and overseas Chinese communities in Europe were also present.

From August 2 to 3, the "Entrepreneurship China•Focus on Hengshui-2019 Visit to Hengshui by

World Overseas Chinese Businessmen "organized by the People's Government of Hengshui Municipality was held in Hengshui, Hebei Province. It was under the guidance of the China Federation of Overseas Chinese Entrepreneurs and Federation of Overseas Chinese in Hebei Province. More than 140 overseas businessmen from nearly 20 countries and regions including the United States, France, Germany, Belarus, Romania, Brazil, Jordan and other countries attended the meeting.

On August 9, the Amity Foundation established the Amity Kenya Office and Amity Printing Kenya Agency in Nairobi, Kenya's capital. Before then, it established the African Office and African Service Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital in 2015. Guests from the Chinese and Kenyan governments, businesses, churches and social organizations attended the unveiling ceremony.

From August 10 to 14, the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of Cambodia jointly launched the "Second Batch of Cambodia Love Package Project Promotion and Training for School Principals and Teachers in 2019". The training focused on the background of the project, package design, and work standards of beneficiary school to ensure that the love package can be successfully delivered to children. More than 160 representatives from 74 beneficiary primary schools in 10 provinces such as Gandan Province, staff of the Provincial Department of Education, and the Ministry of Education of Cambodia participated in the training.

From August 12 to 16, Deputy Secretary-General of China Foundation for Peace and Development, Wang Hua led a delegation to Cambodia to conduct an inspection on poverty alleviation projects. Wang Hua and the delegation met Vice Chairman of the Cambodian People's Party's Central Committee on Foreign Affairs, Sossala and China's Ambassador to Cambodia Wang Wentian, had discussions with Chairman of the Cambodian Civil Organizations Alliance Forum Galivisi, Vice Chairman of Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia, Chen Qisheng

and representatives of some enterprises and had on-site inspections on the villages reported by Cambodia. Representatives of the Foundation's Cambodia office participated in the event.

On August 15, Wang He, Vice Chairman of the China International Contractors Association, met with Lisa Li, the Deputy Commissioner of the Victorian Government of Australia, in Beijing. The two sides exchanged views on promoting the cooperation between Chinese and Australian companies in infrastructure and other areas of Victoria and the Belt and Road countries. Pei Hailan, the Senior Trade Representative of the Victorian Government of Australia, and the heads of the relevant departments of the Contractors Association attended the meeting.

On August 19, President of the All-China Women's Federation Shen Yueyue met with the delegation from the Women's Federation of Hong Kong District led by Peng Xu Meiyun, President of the Women's Federation of Hong Kong District, in Beijing, and had a discussion and exchange. Huang Xiaowei, Vice President of the All-China Women's Federation and First Secretary of the Secretariat, and Xia Jie, Vice President of the All-China Women's Federation and Secretary of the Secretariat, participated.

On August 20, Wang Chen, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and President of the China Law Society, met with a delegation of U.S. federal representatives in Beijing. Wang Chen said that a healthy and stable China-US relation is in the fundamental interests of the peoples of the two countries. The two sides must adhere to the principles and directions determined by the two heads of states in Osaka meeting on the basis of mutual respect, mutual benefit, and win-win result so that the bilateral relations can be further developed along the right track. The US side stated that US-China relations are very important and they are willing to deepen exchanges and cooperation.

From August 20 to 28, at the invitation of the Brazil-China Economic Development Association and the Cultural Center of Chilean La Moneda Palace

(Presidential Palace), Li Xinyu, Director of the Strategic Research Center of People-to-People Diplomacy of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries led a delegation to visit Brazil and Chile. The delegation consisted of 9 people, consisting of scholars, entrepreneurs and Shaanxi Zhidan Football Association. During the visit, extensive exchanges were conducted among think tanks and people from the cultural and sports circles of the two countries.

On August 21, Zhao Lingshan, vice president and secretary-general of the China Education Association for International Exchange, met with Mr. George Dellama, President of the Eisenhower Fellowships in Beijing. The two sides exchanged views on the implementation of the "Knowledge of China-China-US Youth Elite Project", and highly appreciated and praised the achievements of the "Knowledge of China" project in the past five years and the great contribution to the cultural exchange between China and the United States. Both sides wished to continue to strengthen cooperation.

On August 21, Zhang Dan, Vice President and Director-General of the U.N. Association of China, was invited to attend the annual work seminar jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the agencies of the United Nations Development System in China. The meeting focused on implementing the results of the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, advancing the 2030 sustainable development agenda, the United Nations development cooperation framework for China, and reform of the United Nations system, and reached important consensus.

On August 22, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the People's Government of Jilin Province, and the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments jointly hosted the first "Northeast Asia Local Cooperation Roundtable" in Changchun, Jilin Province. Deputy Secretary of the Jilin Provincial Party Committee and Governor Jing Junhai, Vice president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with

Foreign Countries Xie Yuan, Secretary-General of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments Jin Yucai, and more than 220 representatives from China, DPRK, Japan, ROK, Russia, Mongolia attended.

On August 22, Zhang Haidi, Chairperson of the China Disabled Persons' Federation and Chairperson of Rehabilitation International, met in Beijing with Marco Subion, the head of international affairs at the French Higher Institute of Psychomotor Therapy Rehabilitation. The two sides had in-depth exchanges on cooperation in rehabilitation education and rehabilitation personnel training.

On August 22, Uzbekistan Vice Minister of Agriculture Huojiayev and his party visited the Beijing Office of Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce and had discussion with the Deputy Secretary General of Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce Wang Yan, the International Cooperation Bureau of Yangling Demonstration Zone in Shaanxi, China Fruit Marketing Association, China National Association of Grain Sector and Representatives from related enterprises. Representatives of Chinese companies introduced their companies and the challenges and problems they encountered in trade with Uzbekistan. They hope that the Uzbekistan government will introduce more preferential policies to attract more Chinese companies to invest in Uzbekistan.

On August 26, representatives of Chinese women entrepreneurs met with a delegation of women members of the Liberal Democratic Party led by Tomomi Inada, Chief Deputy Chairperson of the Japanese Liberal Democratic Party and former Defense Minister. Xia Jie, Vice President of the All-China Women's Federation and Secretary of the Secretariat, Li Dang, member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and President of Chinese Association of Women Entrepreneurs, Vice President Jiang Hua, and some women entrepreneurs attended the forum.

On August 27, the "2019 Official Training Class on Development-oriented Poverty Alleviation Policies and Practices of Developing Countries" hosted by

the Ministry of Commerce and organized by the International Poverty Reduction Center in China closed in Beijing. Themed with "Development-oriented Poverty Alleviation Policies and Practices", the training class lasted 15 days. 24 students of economic, financial, industrial, social security and other department from Senegal, Central Africa, Djibouti, Guinea, Niger, Morocco, Benin, Congo (DRC) participated.

On August 27, the 4th China-Africa Youth Gala, hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and organized by the China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, opened in Beijing. The opening ceremony was attended by nearly a hundred young friends of 51 African countries of Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, representatives of the African Union in China, 6 ambassadors of African countries to China, representatives of embassies of 26 African countries in China, African news media in China, and representatives of African students in China and more than 300 Chinese youth representatives.

From September 2 to 4, the Second Geneva Dialogue of East Asian Scholars with Senior Officials of the United Nations and other International Organizations was held in Geneva, Switzerland. Zhang Yunfei, board member of the United Nations Association of China, led a delegation to attend the dialogue. Hosted by the Tokyo Office of the Academic Council of the United Nations System, the event was attended by scholars from China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Mongolia. During the event, the participants discussed with the heads of relevant UN agencies and exchanged views on UN reform, sustainable development goals, international development cooperation, peacekeeping and peace building, and human rights.

From September 5 to 6, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Tsinghua University, the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government jointly hosted the Fourth World Philanthropy Forum in Shenzhen. The forum focused on the development of the bay area with the theme of "Philanthropy in the Bay Area

for Better Life”. More than 300 participants from governments, enterprises, philanthropy organizations, institutions of higher education and United Nations agencies from 22 countries and regions participated.

On September 6, International Seminar on Counterterrorism, De-radicalization and Human Rights Protection, sponsored by the China Society for Human Rights Studies and organized by the Southwest University of Political Science and Law and Xinjiang University, was held in Urumqi. More than 60 experts and scholars from 18 countries and international organizations, including France, India, Turkey, Afghanistan and China, held discussions and exchanges on such topics as anti-terrorism, humanitarian and human rights protection in the process of de-radicalization, and comparative studies and international cooperation on counter-terrorism and de-radicalization.

On September 6, the 4th Beijing International Walking Forum was held in Beijing, which was co-sponsored by Beijing NGO Association for International Exchange (BNAIE) and Beijing Sports Federation. Zhao Wenzhi, Vice Chairman of China NGO Network for International Exchanges and President of BNAIE, announced the opening of the forum. Representatives from governments, universities and non-governmental organizations from China, Switzerland, Japan and Nigeria attended.

On September 7, the Third Taihe Civilizations Forum was held in Beijing. Liu Limin, President of China Education Association for International Exchange, attended the forum and delivered a keynote speech entitled “Actively serve the Belt and Road Initiatives and upgrade cooperation on vocational education”. Taihe Civilizations Forum was initiated by Taihe Institute in 2017. With the theme of “Science Culture, Future Ethics, Common Values”, it aims to promote exchanges and mutual learning among national and regional civilizations and promote harmonious and sustainable development of human society.

On September 9, Xu Jianguo, Secretary-General of the China Foundation for Peace and Development, met in Beijing with a delegation of tribal elders

led by Amanullah Khan Yasinzai, governor of Balochistan province of Pakistan. Secretary-General Xu Jianguo introduced the basic situation of the foundation and the latest progress of its projects in Pakistan. The delegation expressed appreciation for the livelihood projects undertaken by the foundation in Pakistan, particularly in Balochistan Province, and made recommendations on the direction of future cooperation.

From September 16 to 25, Xu Lyuping, Vice President of China NGO Network for International Exchanges, led a delegation to visit the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania. During her visit to the Czech Republic, she exchanged views with Jaroslav Doubrava, Chairman of the Czech-China Friendship Group of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, and Kohut, former Deputy Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, and held a seminar on “Belt and Road” construction and people-to-people connectivity. During her visit to Hungary, she met with Ms. Márta Mátrai, first officer of the National Assembly of Hungary and former Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy, and held a seminar on building closer ties between the peoples of China and Hungary. During her visit to Romania, she met with former Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta and held the launching ceremony of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative in Romania.

On September 17, the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly opened at the United Nations headquarters in New York. According to the agenda, high level events were convened from 23rd to 27th, during which a number of high-level meetings related to environmental protection were held, including the climate action summit and the sustainable development goals summit. As an environmental organization in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, All-China Environment Association attended the summit and participated in the NGO dialogue.

From September 17 to 21, at the invitation of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD), Hajime Takano, co-representative of the Association on the Succession



and Development of Murayama's Statement, a famous commentator on international issues and editor-in-chief for the magazine Insider, led a delegation to visit China. The delegation had discussions and exchanges with experts from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, visited the Beijing Research Institute of Huawei, visited the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and presented flowers, and received interviews from CCTV news, Beijing news, Beijing daily and other media.

On September 18, Gerd Lutz, Chairman of Karlsruhe Handicrafts Association in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, Hartmut Mattes, Chairman of the German-China Friendship Association for Vocational Education, and Dr. Patrick Jakob, Dean of Training Institute of Karlsruhe Handicrafts Association, visited China Vocational Education Association. The two sides discussed cooperation in the assessment of graduation qualification and introduction of qualification certificates for students receiving vocational education, and reached a consensus on the goal of helping schools better improve the quality of teaching on the premise of saving manpower and material resources.

On September 19, the Second World Tourism Alliance-Xianghu Dialogue, hosted by the World Tourism Alliance, was held in Hangzhou. With the theme of "Today's Travel & Tourism Industry: Responding & Adapting to Rapid Growth & Transition", the forum was attended by over 600 guests from government agencies, foreign embassies, consulates and tourism agencies in China, tourism industry and academia. The International Poverty Reduction Center in China, together with the World Tourism Alliance and the World Bank, jointly released the 2019 WTA Best Practice in Poverty Alleviation through Tourism.

From September 19 to 20, the "China-Macau joint investment promotion delegation", sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce, the Secretariat for Economy and Finance of Macau Government, and undertaken by the China International Contractors Association and the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, visited Malaysia. During the visit, the delegation held

activities such as the Malaysia investment opportunity promotion meeting, the exchange meeting and the exchange banquet, and made on-the-spot visits to a number of key infrastructure cooperation projects between the two countries.

From September 19 to 28, Liu Hongcai, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Vice President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding, visited Russia, Japan and Cambodia. During his visit to Russia, he had discussions with President of the Public Service of the Federation of Russia, Mr. Fajeev, Mr. Ivan Melnikov, first Vice-Chairman of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, first Deputy Chairman of State Duma and Chairman of the Russia-China Friendship Association. During his visit to Japan, he had discussions with Toshihiro Nikai, member of the Liberal Democratic Party, Yasuo Ogata, Vice Chairman of the Central Committee of the Japanese Communist Party, and other party leaders and lawmakers of relevant parties. During a visit to Cambodia, he held talks with Deputy Prime Minister Ke Kim Yan, Teg Ngorn, second Vice President of the Senate, Chhit Kim Yeat, Vice Chairman of Senate's Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Media and Information Suos Yara, member of the Central Committee of the Cambodian People's Party, Vice-Chairman of its Commission for External Relations, member of the National Assembly of Cambodia, and Kem Reat Viseth, Chairman of Cambodia's Civil Society Alliance Forum, and so on. The delegation also visited the China-Cambodia friendship hospital built with the assistance of the China Foundation for Peace and Development and exchanged views with the hospital staff.

On September 21, the China International Contractors Association (CHINCA) held the 2019 China-ASEAN Infrastructure Cooperation Forum in Nanning, Guangxi Autonomous Region. The theme of this year's forum was "promoting the high-quality development of China-ASEAN infrastructure cooperation". About 150 guests and journalists from China and ASEAN

countries related to infrastructure investment and cooperation attended the forum. Xu Guolei, Director of the exhibition center of CHINCA chaired the forum.

On September 24, the launching ceremony of the “Panda Pack Project for Namibia 2019” of China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation was held in Windhoek, capital of Namibia. Representatives of Ministry of Education, Art and Culture of Namibia, Khomas Region and Windhoek city, Wang Xingzui, Executive Vice President of China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, teachers and students of beneficiary primary schools, representatives of Chinese-funded enterprises, friends from all walks of life of China and Namibia and representatives of the media attended the ceremony.

On September 25, the 20th World Knowledge Forum was held in Seoul, South Korea. The theme of the forum was “Knowledge Revolution 5.0: Perspicacity Towards Prosperity for AI”. Wang Jiarui, Chairman of China Soong Ching Ling Foundation and China Welfare Association, was invited to attend the opening ceremony of the forum and delivered a keynote speech. President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea sent a video message of congratulations, Former Prime Minister of Finland Esko Aho delivered a speech, and more than 2,000 guests from the world attended.

On September 27, a series of activities entitled “2019 World Canal Cities Forum & World Canals Conference” were held in Yangzhou, Jiangsu province, with the theme of “the preservation, inheritance and utilization of canal culture”. About 600 people attended the forum, including mayors of canal cities around the world, international canal experts, and representatives of Chinese non-governmental organizations such as China NGO Network for International Exchanges and Inland Waterways International.

The 2019 APEC Forum on Women and the Economy was held in La Serena, Chile, on October 5. About 260 representatives in charge of women and economy affairs from APEC Economies, including ministers,

vice-ministers, high-level officials, women's organizations and private sector, attended the forum. Shi Caixia, representative of China Association of Women Entrepreneurs and president of Oriental Education Group in Wuhai City, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region participated in the selection of “APEC Best Award” held by Russia and won the single award of “Best Social Influence”.

On October 10, the 3rd ASEM High-Level Meeting on Disability Cooperation, hosted by China Disabled Persons' Federation, was held in Beijing. Focusing on the ASEM policy dialogue on disabled persons in the context of traditional culture and legal principles, the meeting held extensive and in-depth discussions on how to carry out practical cooperation on disabled persons within the framework of ASEM. More than 60 representatives from ASEM members, relevant international organizations, experts and scholars attended the meeting.

From October 10 to 14, Yu Qun, Vice Chairman of China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, attended the 17th Rhodes Forum in Greece. The theme of this year's forum was “Global (Dis)order: towards dialog-based worldviews”. More than 400 dignitaries, experts and scholars from more than 50 countries attended the forum, including Mahamadou Issoufou, President of Niger, Ehud Olmert, former Prime Minister of Israel, and Martin Schulz, former President of the European Parliament.

On October 11, the “Accessibility Forum Under the Belt and Road Framework”, co-sponsored by the China Disabled Persons' Federation and Tsinghua University, was held in Beijing. Representatives from the United Nations World Tourism Organization, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, Rehabilitation International and other international organizations, as well as government officials, experts, scholars and representatives of disabled people from China, Russia, Hong Kong and other countries and regions attended the meeting.

From October 15 to 16, the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament and American Friends Service Committee (CPAPD) jointly hosted

the Ninth China-US Civil Peace Forum. Wang Yajun, advisor of CPAPD and Vice-Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and Alan Beebe, President of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, attended the forum and delivered a speech. Experts and scholars from the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, Ministry of Commerce, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China Institute of International Studies, China Foreign Affairs University and other institutions, representatives of entrepreneurs, experts and scholars from US think tanks, and representatives of US enterprises in China attended the forum.

On October 16, China Internet Information Center, International Poverty Reduction Center in China, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development, and World Food Programme co-hosted the 2019 China Poverty Reduction International Forum in Beijing, with the theme of “Joint Efforts on Knowledge Sharing, to Promote Global Poverty Reduction Governance”. More than 200 Chinese and foreign guests from 13 international organizations and 30 countries attended the forum.

On October 17, Shen Yueyue, Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the NPC, and President of the All-china Women’s Federation met respectively with Davlatali Said, first Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, Zamirbek Askarov, Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan and Vladimir Norov, Secretary-General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, who were attending the 7th “China-Central Asia Cooperation Forum” in Nanning, Guangxi. They exchanged views on deepening Belt and Road cooperation, further carrying forward the “Shanghai Spirit”, and strengthening cooperation on economy, trade, culture, health care, youth and women.

On October 17, with the theme of “Fighting Poverty: Global Experience and China’s Practice”, the 2019 Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum

was held in Beijing. Hu Chunhua, Vice Premier of the State Council and Head of the State Council Leading Group of Poverty Alleviation and Development, delivered a speech. The China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA) and the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) held a parallel forum with the theme of “Poverty reduction practice of the whole society”. Liu Wenkui, Vice President and Secretary General of CFPA, and Zhang Guangping, Deputy Director General of IPRCC delivered welcoming remarks.

On October 17, Wang Chen, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress and director of the China Law Society, held talks with Kasynguly Babayev, Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis (Turkmen Parliament) in Beijing. The two sides had in-depth exchanges on strengthening exchanges and mutual learning between the legislative bodies of the two countries, promoting practical “Belt and Road” cooperation and enhancing people-to-people connectivity.

On October 18, Xu Jianguo, Secretary-General of the China Foundation for Peace and Development met in Beijing with G.Ganbayar, Deputy Minister of Education, Culture, Science and Sports and his delegation. The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on cooperation in developing projects on people’s livelihood in Mongolia.

On October 21, “Internet Public Welfare and Charity Forum” of the Sixth World Internet Conference was held for the first time in Wuzhen, Zhejiang Province, sponsored by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, and jointly co-organized by China’s Internet Development Foundation, China Society News Agency, China Charity Alliance. Hundreds of guests from Chinese and foreign governments, international organizations, social organizations, enterprises, think tanks, participated in the forum.

From October 21 to 30, at the invitation of the Security Studies of Belgrade University of Serbia, Croatian-China Friendship Association and India-

China Economic and Cultural Council, Ai Ping, Vice President of Chinese Association for International Understanding and former Vice Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, led a delegation of the Association to visit the above three countries. During the visit, he had extensive contact with dignitaries, former political leaders, social organizations and think tanks of the three countries, and had in-depth discussions on promoting people-to-people connectivity, carrying out the Silk Road Community Building Initiative and strengthening exchanges and dialogue among civilizations.

From October 22 to 25, a delegation of 21 representatives from Chinese universities, led by Li Chunsheng, Deputy Secretary General of China Education Association for International Exchange, went to Colombia to attend the Conference of the Americas on International Education. Eleven universities, including Renmin University of China, Wuhan University and Sun Yat-sen University, participated. At the annual meeting, representatives of Chinese universities actively publicized the development and practice of China's higher education, delivered speeches at the symposium and the China sharing session, and exchanged experience with representatives from other countries.

From October 22 to 26, a 175-member delegation headed by Zhu Dan, Deputy Director General of Department of East Asian Affairs of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, paid a friendly visit to the Republic of Korea (ROK). The delegation consisted of young people from six provinces and autonomous regions including Beijing, Hebei, Shanxi, Gansu, Hubei and Guangxi. The delegation had an in-depth understanding of the cultural tradition, economic development and social status of ROK, established contacts and friendship with representatives of the local government, and held discussions and exchanges with representatives of ROK on promoting the development of China-ROK relations and building smart cities.

On October 23, the Permanent Mission of the People's

Republic of China to the United Nations and the China Society for Human Rights Studies(CSHRS) jointly held a symposium at the United Nations headquarters in New York, inviting experts and scholars from the CSHRS to exchange views with representatives of permanent missions of relevant countries on measures to combat terrorism and eradicate extremism in Xinjiang, reincarnation of living buddhas of Tibetan Buddhism, and the practice of Hong Kong on law amendment. Mission officials from Pakistan, Cuba, Venezuela, North Korea, Belarus, Nicaragua, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Burundi, Laos, Singapore and Cameroon attended the meeting.

On October 23, Zhao Dali, Executive Vice President and Secretary General of the China International Public Relations Association, met in Beijing with the Sergey Khaprov, Advisor of Third-Class to the Russian Government, and his delegation. The two sides exchanged views on jointly promoting the application of new technologies in the field of big data in public relations and communication between China and Russia.

From October 24-26, Zhang Haidi, Executive President of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and Chairperson of the China Disabled Persons' Federation and President of National Paralympic Committee of China, attended the IPC General Assembly and Board Meeting in Bonn, Germany. Zhang Haidi held a working meeting with the President of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), Andrew Parsons, exchanging views on the preparations for Beijing 2022 Winter Paralympics and the development of China's Winter Paralympic movement. Parsons spoke highly of China's positive efforts and remarkable achievements in the preparation.

From October 27 to 29, the 10th East Asia Civil Society Forum, sponsored by Japan Association of Charity Organization, was held in Tokyo, Japan. The theme of the forum was "A role of CSOs in aging society", which was strongly supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency, Niwano Peace Foundation and Japan Foundation Center. More than

70 experts, scholars and representatives of social organizations from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea attended the conference.

On October 30, Fang Naichun, Secretary of the Communist Party Group and Direct-General of China Vocational Education Association, met in Beijing with professor Thomas Hug, a well-known German expert on vocational education and senior trainer of the Baden-Württemberg Institute of Continuing Education for Teachers. The two sides had in-depth exchanges on China-Germany vocational education cooperation.

From November 8 to 9, the "19th East Asian Seminar on United Nations System" was held in South Korea. The topics of this seminar covered "Digital Transformation and the Future of the UN System", "Peace building on the Korean Peninsula and Security Cooperation in East Asia", "Local Implementations of SDGs and Cultural Exchanges in East Asian". Experts and scholars from U.N. Association of China, China Institute of International Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, China Center for International Knowledge on Development attended the seminar.

On November 12-13, the "6th China-South Asia Friendship Organizations' Forum" was held in Kathmandu, Nepal. Nepal's Vice President Adabahadur Poun attended the opening ceremony. About 100 people, including leaders of 7 South Asian countries' organizations and local representatives from 6 provinces and cities in China attended the conference.

On November 16, the "China Ecological Civilization Forum Shiyan Annual Conference" hosted by the China Ecological Civilization Research and Promotion Association was held in Shiyan City, Hubei Province. The theme of the conference was "Ecological Civilization, Harmonious Coexistence-Fighting against Pollution and Promoting High-quality Development." Chen Zongxing, Vice President of the Eleventh National Committee of the Chinese People's

Political Consultative Conference and Chairman of the China Ecological Civilization Research and Promotion Association, and Party Secretary and Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment Li Ganjie attended the opening ceremony and delivered speeches. Representatives from relevant organizations at home and abroad, green enterprises, and ASEAN countries attended the conference.

On November 17, the "10th Overseas Chinese Entrepreneurs Forum" hosted by China Federation of Overseas Chinese Entrepreneurs was held in Beijing. The theme of this forum was "China's Development, Overseas Entrepreneurs' Opportunities". Over 800 people attended the forum, including Li Zhuobin, Vice President of the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese; Xie Guomin and Xu Rongmao, China Federation of Overseas Chinese Entrepreneurs; leaders of overseas Chinese business associations; and journalists from the central news unit.

From November 17 to 19, the "3rd Implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development towards Community Revival • Ningbo Forum 2019" hosted by the Chinese Society for Sustainable Development was held in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province. Representatives from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme office in China, China Women's Development Foundation, China Architecture Design and Research Group, Lund University in Sweden, and Chiang Mai University in Thailand attended the meeting.

On November 18, Xu Jianguo, Secretary General of the China Foundation for Peace and Development, met with the head of G-GLOBAL International Secretariat of Kazakhstan, Selik Nugelbekov, and Plenipotentiary Chief Ge Jian. The two sides mainly introduced the basic situation and major work of their respective institutions, and focused on in-depth exchanges and discussions on areas of future cooperation.

On November 21, the "2019 Soong Ching Ling Children's Development International Forum" co-hosted by China Soong Ching Ling Foundation and UNICEF China Office was held in Shanghai. This forum was one of a series of activities in honor of



World Children's Day and the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Nearly 100 delegates from UNICEF, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea, Uzbekistan and other countries attended the conference.

From November 21 to 24, the "3rd Australia Chinese Culture Festival 2019 and Tea Expo", co-hosted by the Chinese Culture Promotion Society, the Overseas Chinese Tea Development Research Foundation and the Oz-Sino Association for Advancement of culture & Arts was held at the International Convention Center in Sydney, Australia (ICC Sydney). It was organized by Aofeng Culture Co. Ltd. Nearly a hundred Chinese and Australian companies participated in the exhibition.

On November 22, the Ethiopia Love Parcel Distribution Ceremony was held at Metebaber Primary School in Addis Ababa, the capital. About 700 people attended the event, including the Chinese ambassador to Ethiopia, Alibaba, representatives of the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, Zelalem Mulatu, Director of the Addis Ababa Education Bureau, friendly people from all walks of life in China and Egypt, and teachers and students from beneficiary schools.

On November 22, Zhang Qian, Executive Vice President of the Beijing NGO Network for International Exchanges, met with a delegation of young diplomats from Burkina Faso in Beijing. The two sides had friendly exchanges on further strengthening ties, enhancing mutual understanding, and carrying out win-win cooperation that is mutually beneficial and pragmatic.

From November 24-26, Wu Hongbo, the Special Representative of China for European Affairs, Chairman of the China International Public Relations Association, and Secretary General Zhao Dali led a Chinese public relations delegation to Dubai, UAE, to participate in the "3rd Next Summit-Options At The Crossroads". Approximately 500 people attended this conference, including Ban Ki-moon, the 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations, Isam Sharap, former

Prime Minister of Egypt, dignitaries, top industry experts and business representatives from the UAE, China, Indonesia, New Zealand, ROK, Egypt and relevant international organizations.

On November 26, the "Tenth China-Italy Science Technology and Innovation Week" co-hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology of China and the Scientific Research Department of the Italian University of Education was held in Beijing. The China Federation of Industrial Economics and the Italian Federation of Industrialists signed a memorandum of cooperation. The two sides agreed to jointly build a platform for in-depth cooperation between Chinese and Italian industrial and commercial brands, hold the China-Italy Business Leaders Summit, and establish industrial parks in their respective countries based on the "two countries, two parks" model to promote the building of enterprises in the other country. The two sides also decided to establish a long-term cooperation mechanism to jointly provide guidance and support for industrial cooperation between China and Italy.

From November 26 to 29, Zhang Haidi, Chairperson of the China Disabled Persons' Federation and Chairperson of Rehabilitation International, attended the "Beijing + 25 Review" Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference in Bangkok, Thailand. The conference was co-organized by the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the UN Women. It aims to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the World Women Conference in Beijing and discuss the further strengthening of women's leadership to achieve gender equality and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The conference adopted a ministerial declaration on realizing women's rights and promoting an equitable future.

On November 28, the "1st Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations" hosted by the Chinese Association for International Understanding was held at Palace Museum in Beijing. Nearly 100 representatives from different civilizations of the world attended the meeting. Participants exchanged views and discussed around the theme of "Building A Beautiful World in Which Civilizations Learn from

Each Other And Live in Harmony." Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and president of the Chinese Association for International Understanding, attended the opening ceremony and delivered a keynote speech. This event set agendas for high-end dialogues, two parallel sessions, and visit to the Forbidden City. At the closing ceremony, the "Beijing Declaration on Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations" was delivered.

From November 28 to 29, the "2019 FOCAC African-China Poverty Alleviation and Development Conference" was held in Kampala, Uganda, with the theme "Strengthening China-Africa Cooperation in Poverty Reduction and Helping Africa's Transformation". The conference was co-organized by the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries of Uganda. More than 300 people, including officials and experts from China, Uganda, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Liberia, Mauritius, Seychelles and the United Nations system and representatives from international organizations, companies and media attended the conference.

On November 28, the "Thematic Workshop on International Humanitarian Exchanges and Cooperation" with the theme "To Build a Humanitarian Bridge" was held at the International Academy of Red Cross and Red Crescent of Suzhou University. The workshop was co-organized by the Red Cross Society of China and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. A total of more than 70 delegates from 11 national societies including Canada, Iraq, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Malaysia, Nepal, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Egypt and Yemen participated in the workshop.

On November 29, the "China-CEEC Higher Education Institutions Consortium Capacity Building Meeting" hosted by the China Education Association for International Exchange and organized by Xi'an Jiaotong University was held in Xi'an. Deputy Secretary-General of China Education Association

for International Exchange Shen Xuesong and Vice President Xi Guang of Xi'an Jiaotong University attended the meeting and delivered speeches. 80 representatives from 61 member institutions attended the meeting.

On December 7, the groundbreaking ceremony of the China-Philippines Friendly South Wales 3A National High School Teaching Building Project, which was co-built by the China Foundation for Peace and Development and the Philippine Sabak Foundation, was held in the Southville Village, San Antonio District, Neihu Province, Philippines. Wang Ning, member of the Standing Committee of the Beijing Municipal Committee; Huang Xilian, Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines; Wang Hua, Deputy Secretary-General of the China Foundation for Peace and Development; Fernandes, member of the Philippine Parliament; Matti Bagh, Secretary-General of the Philippine Democratic Party; Ann Matti Bagh, Governor of the Inner Lake Province and more than 200 Philippine government department representatives, teachers, students and parents attended the ceremony.

On December 7, the "2019 Silk Road Business Summit" was held in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province. More than 400 government officials, ambassadors to China, presidents of business associations, and representatives of multinational companies from 73 countries along the "Belt and Road" participated in the conference. This summit focused on the topics of building high-quality "Belt and Road", "Belt and Road" financial communications and pragmatic cooperation, "Belt and Road" economic and trade cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges to actively promote connectivity in the fields of finance, commerce, trade, tourism, and culture, and deepen pragmatic cooperation in countries and regions along the Silk Road.

On December 8, under the guidance of the China Ecological Civilization Research and Promotion Association, the "Second International Forum on Siberian Crane" jointly organized by the Jiangxi Province Ecological Civilization Research and Promotion Association, the International Crane

Foundation and Hong Kong Commercial Daily was held in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province. More than 180 people, including experts and scholars from universities and research institutes, representatives of social groups and non-profit organizations, and journalists attended the forum.

From December 8 to 11, at the invitation of the Greek Chinese Association, Gao Shuangjin, Vice President of the Beijing NGO Network for International Exchanges led a group of five people to visit Greece. Mr. Gondos, Executive Vice President of the Greek-Chinese Association, had in-depth discussions with the Chinese delegation on deepening the cooperation between the two associations in international hiking program, outdoor sports, and tourism industries. The two sides had field visits to routes in Epirus that are suitable for hiking.

On December 10, Wang Chen, member of the Politburo of the CPC Central Committee, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and President of the Chinese Law Society, met in Beijing with Neves, Speaker of Sao Tome and Principe National Assembly. The two sides were willing to further deepen political mutual trust, expand pragmatic cooperation, and enhance people's friendship. They hoped that the legislatures of the two countries would strengthen exchanges and provide a good environment for the rule of law for the development of bilateral relations.

From December 11 to 19, at the invitation of the National Assembly of the Republic of the Congo, the Portuguese Parliament, and the Tanzanian National Assembly, Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding, led a delegation to visit the three countries. During the visit, he made extensive contacts with politicians, former politicians, social organizations, think tanks, etc. of the three countries, conducted in-depth discussions on promoting the "Belt and Road" people-to-people exchange, carrying out "Silk Road Community Building Initiative" actions, and strengthening cultural exchanges and dialogues.

On December 11, the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation and the Pakistan Red Crescent Society successfully held the "2019 Pakistan International Love Parcel Project Presentation and Volunteer Training Meeting" in Islamabad. Staff from the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation introduced the development history of the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation Foundation, the International Love Parcel Project, and the implementation requirements of the International Love Parcel Project to nearly 30 Pakistan Red Crescent staff and Pakistani volunteers present and got praise of the project.

On December 11, the China Education Association for International Exchange and the Ministry of Education of Mexico jointly held the "China-Mexico Vocational Education Forum" in Mexico City. Pablo Arroyo, Deputy Minister of Education of Mexico, and Zhu Qingqiao, Chinese Ambassador to Mexico, attended the meeting and delivered speeches. A total of 60 representatives from 15 Chinese vocational colleges and representatives from the Ministry of Education and Colleges of Mexico attended the meeting.

On December 12, the launching ceremony of the "Amity Foundation Cambodia Education Development Project" was held at Phum Siem Primary School in Bavel, Battambang, Cambodia. More than 100 people including Mr. Saung Veng, Director of Education of Bawal City, and representatives of teachers and students in Siam Village Primary School attended the ceremony. The Amity International Education Development Project launched this time includes donating books and bookshelves to local primary schools, and will carry out Chinese teaching and facilities renovation in schools.

On December 12, Wang He, Vice Chairman of the China International Contractor Association, met with Chris Barrett, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Investment Agency of Victoria, and his team in Beijing. Pragmatic exchanges were held on topics such as state infrastructure construction.

On December 13, the launching ceremony of the "Silk Road Amity" series of activities in the Republic of Congo was held in Brazzaville, the capital of the

Republic of Congo. Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Chairman of the Chinese Association for International Understanding; Ma Fulin, Chinese Ambassador to The Republic of Congo; Opamba, First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Congo; Representatives of social organizations from the two countries attended the event. Ji Bingxuan and Opamba unveiled the launching ceremony of the "Silk Road Community Building Initiative" series of activities in the Republic of Congo. After the unveiling ceremony, the social organizations of the two countries signed a number of cooperation agreements.

On December 14, the "2019 Boao International Summit of the Beautiful Country", co-organized by the China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, opened in Hainan. Wang Jiarui, Vice Chairman of the Twelfth National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Chairman of China's Soong Ching Ling Foundation, and ambassadors of Brazil, South Korea, Nepal, Tajikistan and other countries to China attended the opening ceremony. Nearly a thousand delegates participated in this grand event, discussing the construction of a beautiful countryside and the strategy of rural revitalization, searching ways of getting out of poverty and becoming rich, accumulating love, feeling love, passing love, and creating a new era of rural rejuvenation.

On December 17, Liu Junwen and Tan Weiping, Deputy Directors General of the International Poverty Reduction Center of China, met with visiting Laos Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Khambounnath XAYANONE in Beijing. Both sides exchanged views on advancing cooperation projects of poverty reduction in Laos and launching new poverty reduction cooperation pilots. The two sides stated that the next step would be to work together to further advance China-Laos cooperation in poverty reduction.

On December 19, the launching ceremony of the "Silk Road Community Building Initiative" series of activities in Tanzania was held in Dar es Salaam. More than 150 people attended the event, including Ji

Bingxuan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding; Wang Ke, Chinese ambassador to Tanzania; Ndugai, Chairman of the Tanzanian National Assembly; and representatives of social organizations in China and Tanzania. Ji Bingxuan and Ndugai jointly unveiled the launching ceremony for the "Silk Road Community Building Initiative" Series of Activities in Tanzania. After the unveiling ceremony, Chinese and Tanzanian social organizations held a signing ceremony. Social organizations of the two countries signed a number of cooperation memoranda of understanding on strengthening people-to-people exchanges and cooperation in people's livelihood.

On December 20, at the invitation of the China UK Business Association, members of the China Federation of Overseas Chinese Entrepreneurs in Beijing attended the "Return Banquet of the 15th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention" held at the British Embassy's residence in Beijing. John Edwards, Deputy Trade Envoy of the International Trade Department of the British Embassy in China, Zhang Jinlong, Chairman of the China UK Business Association, and Yang Tengbo, Executive Chairman of the China UK Business Association attended the event on behalf of the organizers of the 15th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention.

On December 23, Tao Tao, Deputy Secretary-General of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, met with Baska Koirala, Director of the Nepal Institute for International and Strategic Studies in Beijing. The two sides exchanged views on the future exchanges between the two organizations and other issues of common concern.

On December 23, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries held a "China-Japan Youth Friendly Exchange Conference". State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi and Japanese Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu sent congratulatory letters on behalf of the Chinese and Japanese governments. Nearly 1,200 people, including President Li Xiaolin, Vice President Song

Jingwu, Director of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Wu Jianghao, former Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan, Kenfu Kuramura, President of the Japan-China Friendship Cultural Exchange Promotion Association, Atsushi Ueno, Chief Minister of the Japanese Embassy in China, other representatives of relevant units of the two countries, and Chinese and Japanese youth representatives attended the conference.

On December 27, Zhang Haidi, the Chairperson of the China Disabled Persons' Federation, met with Eiichi Saitoh, President of the Fujita Health University in Beijing. The two sides stated that China and Japan are close neighbors. Both sides were willing to have further exchanges and cooperation to jointly promote the training of rehabilitation talents.

On December 30, after discussion, the Secretariat of Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network decided to admit 15 Chinese social organization to join the network, including Yunnan Youth Development Foundation, Shaanxi Hantang Cultural and Creative Research Institute, Chongqing Female Talent Research Institute, Guangxi Organization of Hospitals, Chamber of Commerce of Yunnan Mohan Economic Cooperation Zone, Food Security and Health Care Association of Baoshan, Yunnan Province, Overseas Chinese Charity Foundation of China, Guizhou Blue Sky Rescue, Beijing Peaceland Foundation, Guangxi Biodiversity Research and Conservation Association, Center for China and Globalization, World Federation of Acupuncture-Moxibustion Societies, YouChange China Social Entrepreneur Foundation, Guangdong

Energy Conservation Association, Shanghai Wolrd of Art Brut Culture. 27 foreign organizations were also admitted to the network, including Center of Pakistan and International Relations, Malaysia-China Friendship Association, Global Alliance for Sharing Economy, International Foundation for Nature Care of Nepal, Asia Youth Leaders Association of Singapore, SIRONET Armenia, Japan NPO SEKAI, Amazon Watch, Women, Youth and Children Development Organization of Kenya, Czechoslovakia Council on Foreign Relations, Antall Jozsef Knowledge Centre of Hungary, Hungary Athena foundation, Romania-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Cambodian Organization on Woman's Dvelopment, Conscious Labour Independent Federation Union of Cambodia, Cambodian HIV/AIDs Education and Care, Students Association of Intellectuals Cambodia Asian, Streetchildren Assistance and Development and Program of Cambodia, Livestock Development For Community Livelihood of Cambodia, Hope For Deaf and Handicap Organization of Cambodia, NGOs Coordination Board of Kenya, Touchlives Development International of Kenya, Institute for Culture and Ecology of Kenya, China Africa Friendship Association, Kenya Chapter, Bishkek Silk Road Development Foundation of Kyrgyzstan, and China-Russia Association for Cultural and Educational Development and Exchange (Russia). Up to now, 352 NGOs (including 200 from the foreign side and 152 from the Chinese side) in 72 countries have joined the cooperation network and carried out nearly 400 livelihood projects and activities.

(Translated by Hu Xu)