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LETTING THE WORLD UNDERSTAND CHINA
AND LETTING CHINA UNDERSTAND THE WORLD



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Full Text: 2023 New Year Address by President Xi Jinping



President Xi Jinping delivers a New Year address on Saturday evening, Dec 31, 2022, in Beijing to ring in 2023. [Photo/Xinhua]

BEIJING- On New Year's eve, President Xi Jinping delivered his 2023 New Year Address through China Media Group and the Internet. The following is the full text of the address:

Greetings to you all. The year 2023 is approaching. From Beijing, I extend my best New Year wishes to all of you.

In 2022, we successfully convened the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). An

ambitious blueprint has been drawn for building a modern socialist country in all respects and advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernisation, sounding a clarion call of the times for us forging ahead on a new journey.

The Chinese economy has remained the second largest in the world and enjoyed sound development. GDP for the whole year is expected to exceed 120

trillion *yuan*. Despite a global food crisis, we have secured a bumper harvest for the 19th year in a row, putting us in a stronger position to ensure the food supply of the Chinese people. We have consolidated our gains in poverty elimination and advanced rural revitalisation across the board. We have introduced tax and fee cuts and other measures to ease the burden on businesses, and made active efforts to solve the most pressing difficulties of high concern to the people.

Since COVID-19 struck, we have put the people first and put life first all along. Following a science-based and targeted approach, we have adapted our COVID response in light of the evolving situation to protect the life and health of the people to the greatest extent possible. Officials and the general public, particularly medical professionals and community workers, have bravely stuck to their posts through it all. With extraordinary efforts, we have prevailed over unprecedented difficulties and challenges, and it has not been an easy journey for anyone. We have now entered a new phase of COVID response where tough challenges remain. Everyone is holding on with great fortitude, and the light of hope is right in front of us. Let's make an extra effort to pull through, as perseverance and solidarity mean victory.

Comrade Jiang Zemin passed away in 2022. We pay high tribute to his towering achievements and noble demeanor, and cherish the great legacy he left behind. We will honour his last wishes and advance the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

Wave upon wave, the mighty river of history surges forward. With the persistent efforts of one generation after another, we have taken China to where it is today.

Today's China is a country where dreams become reality. The Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games concluded with a resounding success. Chinese winter sports athletes gave their all and achieved

extraordinary results. Shenzhou-13, Shenzhou-14 and Shenzhou-15 soared into the heavens. China's space station was fully completed and our "home in space" is roving in the deep-blue sky. The people's armed forces marked the 95th birthday and all service members are marching confidently on the great journey of building a strong military. China's third aircraft carrier Fujian was launched. C919, China's first large passenger aircraft, was delivered. And the Baihetan hydropower station went into full operation... None of these achievements would have been possible without the sweat and toil of the numerous Chinese people. Sparks of talent are coming together, and they are the strength of China!

Today's China is a country brimming with vigour and vitality. Various pilot free trade zones and the Hainan Free Trade Port are booming, innovations are gushing out in the coastal areas, development is picking up pace in the central and western regions, the momentum for revitalisation is building in the northeast, and there is greater development and affluence in the border regions. The Chinese economy enjoys strong resilience, tremendous potential and great vitality. The fundamentals sustaining its long-term growth have remained strong. As long as we stay confident and strive for progress while maintaining stability, we will realise the goals we have set. On my visit to Hong Kong earlier this year, I was deeply glad to see that Hong Kong has restored order and is set to thrive again. With determined implementation of One Country, Two Systems, Hong Kong and Macao will surely enjoy long-term prosperity and stability.

Today's China is a country that keeps to its national character. In the course of 2022, we encountered various natural disasters including earthquakes, floods, droughts and wildfires, and experienced some workplace accidents. Amid those disconcerting and heartbreaking scenes, there have emerged numerous touching stories of people sticking together in face of adversity or even sacrificing their lives to help

others in distress. Those heroic deeds will be forever etched in our memories. At every turn of the year, we always think of the great character of resilience that the Chinese nation has carried forward through millennia. It gives us still greater confidence as we continue our way forward.

Today's China is a country closely linked with the world. Over the past year, I have hosted quite a few friends, both old and new, in Beijing; I have also traveled abroad to communicate China's propositions to the world. Changes unseen in a century are unfolding at a faster pace, and the world is not yet a tranquil place. We cherish peace and development and value friends and partners as we have always done. We stand firm on the right side of history and on the side of human civilisation and progress. We work hard to contribute China's wisdom and solutions to the cause of peace and development for all humanity.

After the 20th CPC National Congress, my colleagues and I visited Yan'an. We were there to relive the inspiring episode in which the Party's central leadership overcame extraordinary difficulties in the 1930s and 1940s, and to draw on the spiritual strength of the older generation of CPC members. I often say, "Just as polishing makes jade finer, adversity makes one stronger." Over the past 100 years, the CPC has braved wind and rain, and forged ahead against all odds. That is a most difficult yet great journey. Today, we must press on courageously to make tomorrow's China a better place.

Going forward, China will be a country that performs miracles through hard work. Here I want to quote Su Shi, a renowned Chinese poet, "Charge at the toughest and aim at the farthest." It means to take on the biggest challenges and go after the most ambitious goals. Long as the journey is, we will reach our destination if we stay the course; difficult as the task is, we will get the job done if we keep working at

it. As long as we have the resolve to move mountains and the perseverance to plod on, as long as we keep our feet on the ground and forge ahead with our journey by making steady progress, we will turn our grand goals into reality.

Going forward, China will be a country that draws its strength from unity. Ours is a big country. It is only natural for different people to have different concerns or hold different views on the same issue. What matters is that we build consensus through communication and consultation. When the 1.4 billion Chinese work with one heart and one mind, and stand in unity with a strong will, no task will be impossible and no difficulty insurmountable. The people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait are members of one and the same family. I sincerely hope that our compatriots on both sides of the Strait will work together with a unity of purpose to jointly foster lasting prosperity of the Chinese nation.

Going forward, China will be a country that has great expectations of its younger generation. A nation will prosper only when its young people thrive. For China to develop further, our young people must step forward and take on their responsibilities. Youth is full of vigour and is a source of hope. Youngsters should keep their country in mind, cultivate keen enterprise, and live youth to the fullest with great drive, to prove worthy of the times and the splendor of youth.

To the many people who are still busy working at this very moment, I salute you all! We are about to ring in the New Year. Let us welcome the first ray of sunshine of 2023 with the best wishes for a brighter future.

May our country enjoy prosperity and our people live in harmony. May the world enjoy peace and people of all countries live in happiness. I wish you all a happy New Year and may all your wishes come true.

Thank you.

[Editor's Note] On January 10, the opening ceremony of the World Sinology Lecture was held online and offline by the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) and Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU). Mr. Liu Hongcai, Vice-President of CAFIU, Mr. Hussam Al Hussein, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to China, and Mr. Liu Li, President of BLCU attended the opening ceremony and delivered speeches. More than 200 participants including sinologists, experts and scholars from over 40 countries took part in the event.

The World Sinology Lecture is a high-level academic dialogue set up by CAFIU and BLCU, which aims to give full play of sinologists as bridges to enhance the exchanges and mutual learning among different civilisations. At the opening ceremony themed Chinese Modernisation: How It Matters to Our Times, sinologists from countries including Australia, Denmark, Jordan, Mongolia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Syria, the UK and the US joined Chinese experts and scholars to have in-depth discussions on the pioneering significance of Chinese modernisation.

Sinologists present at the ceremony commented that China used its national wisdom to provide a new mode to the modernisation of human society. Chinese modernisation is rooted in Chinese civilisation, which provides the modernisation process of the world with Chinese solution and wisdom, and will offer a reference for other developing countries on their journey towards modernisation. The Chinese nation has always been a nation that loves peace. The pursuit for peace, neighbourliness and harmony takes a deep root in the spirits of the Chinese nation, which determines that Chinese modernisation is definitely a modernisation of peace and development.

Speech Delivered by Liu Hongcai, Vice-President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding



It's a great pleasure to gather with you at the opening ceremony of the World Sinology Lecture to discuss the values of the Chinese modernisation to our times and the significance of the Chinese civilisation to this world. On behalf of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU), I wish to extend warm welcome to all of you and express heartfelt thanks to our co-host Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU).

As General Secretary Xi Jinping put forth in the report to the 20th CPC National Congress, we will advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernisation. Modernisation is the common pursuit of humanity as well as the trend of world development. There is no set form of modernisation or one-size-fits-all modernisation standards in the world. Chinese

modernisation is a socialist modernisation pursued under the leadership of the CPC. It contains elements common to the modernisation process of all countries, but it is more characterised by features that are distinctive in the Chinese context. It rejects the capital-centred and polarised modernisation that features materialism expansion and plunder taken. It has expanded the channels for developing countries to achieve modernisation and offered a new option for countries and nations who want to accelerate development while preserving their independence. As a new form of human advancement, Chinese modernisation has contributed a new development model and development path to humanity, which is of great significance to our times and to this world. You have all been studying the Chinese civilisation for years and have in-depth understanding of the features and significance of Chinese modernisation,



in particular the cultural genes lying behind it. Your explanation will help facilitate the understanding of Chinese modernisation and Chinese civilisation.

As a Chinese adage goes, a delicious soup is cooked by combining different ingredients. Diversity in human civilisation is the fundamental feature of the world as well as the source for human advancement. The Chinese civilisation has always maintained an open and inclusive principle while interacting with world civilisations. China always advocates the ideal of harmony among nations by seeking inclusiveness, pursuing harmony but not uniformity and moving with the times. When you review the past history, you might discover that the world enjoys prosperity and progress with full exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations. On the contrary, people all over the world would suffer if the exchanges were blocked or with misunderstanding and confrontation. The world today has been going through profound changes unseen in a century. We should overcome estrange between civilisations with exchanges, prevent clash with mutual learning and overcome a false sense of superiority with coexistence, thus pooling strengths of civilisations to address common challenges and strive towards a brighter future.

Aiming at “letting the world understand China,

and letting China understand the world”, CAFIU is committed to enhancing exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations, and carrying out friendly communication and cooperation that features reciprocity, equality, diversity and multi-direction with other countries. Sinologists all over the world have long been dedicated to international communications of Chinese civilisation. You are the civil envoys that introduce the Eastern learning and the bridge-builders that promote exchanges and mutual learning among different civilisations. The purpose of the World Sinology Lecture, which is co-hosted by CAFIU and BLCU, is to invite sinologists all over the world to give full play to their advantages to introducing Chinese civilisation from different perspectives. By doing so, we can facilitate exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations, promote people-to-people connectivity and contribute to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind and a brighter future. It is our sincere wish that the World Sinology Lecture light up the bright lanterns of China’s propositions, philosophy and wisdom, and build the bridge of exchanges and mutual learning between Chinese civilisation and the rest of the world, thus serving as an important platform for the world to understand Chinese civilisation and understand China.

Remarks by Liu Li, President of Beijing Language and Culture University



We are gathering here today to jointly launch the opening ceremony of the World Sinology Lecture. On behalf of BLCU, I'd like to express the warmest welcome to all the leaders, experts and guests attending this event online and offline.

The past year was a year of great significance in the history of the development of the CPC and China. The CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core united and led the whole Party, the whole country and people of all ethnic groups in facing difficulties and forging ahead to make hard-won achievements. The 20th CPC National Congress drew the magnificent blueprint of building a modern socialist country in all respects and advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernisation.

The past year also witnessed the fruitful results of

the sinology cause of BLCU. As an important base of sinology studies and international cultural exchanges, BLCU has cultivated over 200,000 China hands for countries around the world who speak fluent Chinese language and are familiar with Chinese culture. Many of them have become sinologists and experts in Chinese studies. Driven by these achievements and standing on the new starting point of a new era, BLCU launched the World Sinologist Council and World Sinologist Centre with an aim to unite experts around the world who pay attention to, study on and understand China, so as to build bridges through academic study, solve conflicts through mutual understanding and promote development through exchanges.

The Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) is a high-end platform for

international exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations. Today, the World Sinology Lecture, an academic pivot covering the entire globe, welcomes its opening ceremony, which is an important move of both CAFIU and BLCU to implement the spirit of the 20th CPC National Congress and take concrete actions to promote cultural exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations.

The world is now undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. The academic and cultural exchanges between China and the rest of the world are facing a special period when opportunities coexist with challenges. The World Sinology Lecture shoulders important missions and is right on time. I'd like to take this opportunity to make three proposals in advancing cultural exchanges between China and other countries.

First, we should strengthen cultivation of international talents and activate the global academic network of sinologists. BLCU has been dedicated to training talents connecting China and the rest of the world. These professionals of Chinese language and culture have grown into the backbone of many industries in their exchanges with China. Going forward, BLCU will continue to be devoted to cultivating international talents, activating the global academic network of sinologists, fully leveraging sinologists' advantage as bridges and bonds, expanding the exchange channel between China and other countries, in an effort to let the world better know about China and understand China.

Second, we should pool resources within and beyond China to build a new highland of sinology studies. Carrying the mission of promoting international influence of Chinese language, deepening people-to-people and cultural exchanges between China and the rest of the world and advancing mutual learning among civilisations around the world, BLCU actively responds to Translation Plan of Asian Classics, pushes forward the China

Studies Programme, holds the World Civilisation and Chinese Path Forum and Young Sinology Scholars Study Camp. In the future, we will continue to build a new highland of sinology studies, host a series of international conferences, forums, workshops, study camps and other academic exchanges activities in the field of linguistic and cultural exchanges and cooperation, and promote the dialogue, exchanges, resource integration and mutual learning from each other's achievements among the academic circles, the cultural circles and other parts of the society.

Third, we should promote exchanges and mutual learning among different cultures from a higher level. Facing the profound changes unseen in a century and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, sinology today has brand-new features and missions, which stands on the basis of inheriting fine traditions and pays more attention to the realistic concern and cutting-edge thinking. Looking into the future, we will start from the building of both the community of the Chinese nation and the community with a shared future for mankind and constantly contribute our wisdom to national and regional development. This year, BLCU will join hands with CAFIU to co-host series events of the World Sinology Lecture in a bid to establish a diversified, open, inclusive and energetic platform for academic exchanges and dialogue among civilisations.

The theme of today's opening ceremony, Chinese Modernisation: How It Matters to Our Times, carries the hope for sinologists around the world to explore the in-depth connotation of Chinese nation through a diversified, international and independent perspective and comprehend the views and ideas, humanities principles and pursuit of values. I firmly believe, through in-depth discussions on the meaning of Chinese modernisation for the times and for the world, fellow experts present today will contribute your wisdom to promoting the lasting prosperity and development of the world!

Abstract of Speech by Hussam Al Hussein, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to China



Today, experts from different countries including Jordan gather together to discuss upon sinology studies and ways to strengthen cooperation with the great Chinese civilisation so as to enhance our perception. The history of human being is a history of continued exploration, exchanges and pursuit of wisdom and knowledge, which led to our progress. For thousands of years, the Arabic and Islamic civilisations have gone from North to South and from East to West for exchanges with other civilisations, which brought values to humanity and helped us set our mind free and tap our potentials.

All the great achievements we have made today result from the contribution of each civilisation to humanity. China has been a source of knowledge, philosophy, literature and art for the world since ancient times. And China today is playing a more important role in the development of humanity both in fields of science, technology and innovation and in art, culture and education. China has also become

a major economic and strategic cooperative partner for many countries around the world.

We need to enhance our understanding of each other's culture and of cultural values and cultural inheritance. We should discover and recognise the history shared by our civilisations, which will allow us a better future in cutting-edge education.

I feel very proud for the increasing popularity of the Chinese language in my home country Jordan. There are more and more schools and institutions carrying out the education of Chinese language and Chinese culture. At the same time, we have also attracted many Chinese scholars and students to learn Arabic in Jordan.

The world is facing increasing global challenges nowadays. Therefore we should join hands to face them. And to do that, we must promote mutual understanding.

Abstract of Speech by Colin Mackerras, Australian Sinologist, Professor of Griffith University



Prof. Colin Mackerras expounded his understanding of Chinese path in the grand view of history. By analysing the cultural logic behind it, he shared his observation of contemporary China and Chinese modernisation.

He pointed out that with the development and evolution of history and the peaceful rise of China, major changes have taken place in the world in terms of China's voice and influence, which is also the call of the times. From mid twentieth century till now, there's major and continuing shift in the balance of power and influence between the West and other countries in the rest of the world. This shift favours especially China. The historian of the future will undoubtedly see the rise of China as perhaps the

greatest global development of the late twentieth century and the twenty-first one.

He argued that the contemporary world is in the era of globalisation, and the US-based globalisation has been in retreat since the world financial crisis of 2008. Since the proposal of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013, as of August 2022, 149 countries had signed up to its objectives. As a result, China-based globalisation is on a sharp increase. The BRI has the potential to transform the great Eurasian continent for the better in the longer-term future. The spread of Chinese culture could make for a more harmonious and prosperous world in the coming decades.

Abstract of Speech by Carsten Boyer Thøgersen, Former Consul General of Denmark in Shanghai



By introducing the Chinese philosophy “He Er Bu Tong” (harmony but not uniformity) and governance in China, Mr. Carsten Boyer Thøgersen analysed common values in the traditional Chinese culture that can be shared by all humanity, and the Chinese wisdom that cultivated the new form of human advancement.

In his opinion, Carsten believes that different from that in Europe, the governance in China is premised on consensus. The ancient *yin-yang* thinking emphasises harmony and inclusiveness; therefore, harmony but not uniformity serves as a major

principle in China’s foreign policy.

He said that the US is still a major power in the contemporary world especially in terms of trade, economy, and finance and so on so forth. China needs to maintain steady growth and avoid any possible conflict with it. He is confident that China will keep its own pace to promote international cooperation and achieve win-win result. It is his good wish that the West learn more about China’s culture and history and they can work together for a brighter future.

Abstract of Speech by Michael Crook, British Sinologist, Winner of the Chinese Government Friendship Award



Michael Crook, British sinologist and winner of the Chinese Government Friendship Award, made constructive proposals on the interpretation of Chinese modernisation in the new era.

He pointed out that China has gained remarkable achievements in its development, and its successful experience will serve as useful reference for the international community. The story of Chinese modernisation is not only a significant part of Chinese stories, but also a major path for the world to understand the Communist Party of China, the country, and the Chinese nation. Therefore, fine interpretation of Chinese path to modernisation is of exceptional significance to countries all over the

world.

He expressed that generations of his family have witnessed the development of China, especially China on the rise in the recent 70 years. China has made extraordinary achievements in almost all fields, from war to peace, from poverty to being a moderately prosperous society, which are obvious to any objective observer. By proposing the Belt and Road Initiative, China pursues the path of peaceful development through which it seeks cooperation instead of competition. Only by promoting the Chinese model of development can the world be a better place and the people enjoy greater happiness.

Abstract of Speech by Baatarkhuu Kh., Mongolian Sinologist, President of Chinese Historical and Cultural Association in Mongolia



Baatarkhuu Kh., Mongolian Sinologist and President of Chinese Historical and Cultural Association in Mongolia, shared his understanding of Chinese modernisation through his translation practices.

In his speech, Baatarkhuu introduced that the two books *The First Volume of the Governance of China* and *Up and Out of Poverty* are works of the time and have gained wide popularity in Mongolia. From getting rid of poverty to common prosperity and the path of peaceful development, China's experience to modernisation works as a valuable reference to the development of Mongolia and lays a foundation for friendly exchanges between the two countries. The Chinese nation is a peace-loving nation, and the pursuit of peace and harmony is deeply rooted in the spiritual world of the Chinese nation as well as the blood of the Chinese people. In the past 70 years

and more since the founding of the PRC, China has not provoked any war or occupied any inch of foreign territory. China stands firm on the right side of history and on the side of human civilisation and progress.

He believes that bound together by mountains and rivers, Mongolia and China are good neighbours, good friends and good partners, and have long enjoyed traditional friendship. Chinese path to modernisation offers a new opportunity for the development of bilateral relations between the two countries and the philosophy of a community with a shared future for mankind is deeply rooted in the hearts of the people all over the world. We will further consolidate the traditional friendship of the two peoples and contribute to new and greater development of Mongolia-China relations.

Abstract of Speech by Karim Alwadi, Research Fellow at the Aspen Institute of the United States



Mr. Karim Alwadi, research fellow at the Aspen Institute of the U.S. summarised the new achievements and trends of economic and trade cooperation between Arabic countries and China since the launching of the Belt and Road Initiative and looked into the bright future of China-Arab cooperation.

Mr. Karim Alwadi pointed out that the Belt and Road Initiative is receiving active response from more and more countries and international organisations, expanding its influence and generating positive spill-over effects. This makes positive efforts to accelerate the building of a high-quality global development partnership featuring solidarity, equality, balance and

mutual benefit, and promote global governance to be fairer and more equal.

Mr. Karim Alwadi referred to his experience of visiting the Gulf countries and made the following suggestions to develop China-Arab diplomatic and economic and trade relations: firstly, establish a fast communication channel between state leaders of Arab states and Chinese decision-makers; secondly, strengthen the communication among leading entrepreneurs of China and of Arab states; thirdly, consider to transfer some of China's production capacity to Arab states; fourthly, Arab states can be the best option for China's financing.

Abstract of Speech by Alexey N. Aleksakhin, Vice-Chairman of Russia-China Friendship Association of Russia, Professor of Moscow State Institute of International Relations



In his speech themed Chinese Modernisation, How and Why it matters to the World and Cultural Confidence, Prof. Alexey N. Aleksakhin discussed cultural governance in the context of modernisation from the perspective of global civilisation.

He emphasised that Chinese modernisation is a key word in the report to the 20th National Congress of CPC. As a result, a full understanding of it will facilitate the understanding of China's future development. Chinese modernisation has demonstrated contemporary and worldwide relevance. It will provide valuable reference to Russia in such areas as economy, society and culture etc.

He believes that the modernisation of the Chinese language is also a reflection of Chinese modernisation. The simplification of Chinese characters and Chinese phonetic alphabet initiated the new historical process of Chinese modernisation and become an important part of it. The Chinese path to modernisation proposed in the report to the 20th CPC National Congress has chartered a new course for China's future development. Against this background, more attention shall be paid to the Chinese modernisation so as to serve the building of the Chinese path to modernisation.

Abstract of Speech by Rashad S. Karimov, Sinologist from Azerbaijan, Former Chief Adviser for Asian and Foreign Policy at the President’s Centre for Strategic Studies of Azerbaijan



Mr. Rashad S. Karimov, Former Chief Adviser for Asian and Foreign Policy at the President’s Centre for Strategic Studies of Azerbaijan and a sinologist, started from the concrete practices of the Belt and Road Initiative in Azerbaijan and illustrated the relationship between implementing the Initiative and championing the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Mr. Rashad S. Karimov pointed out that Azerbaijan is an important cooperation country of the Belt and Road Initiative, which provides participating countries with high-quality opportunities of mutually beneficial cooperation and development. Through jointly implementing the Belt and Road Initiative, China contributes Chinese solution and wisdom to the modernisation progress of the world.

According to Mr. Rashad S. Karimov, Chinese modernisation suits the aspiration of people around the world for a better life. Peace, development,

cooperation and mutual benefits should be the symbol of human progress. Confrontation and conflict should not be the destiny of humanity. Focusing on the connection between China and the rest of the world, Chinese modernisation adheres to dialogue and consultation to promote the building of a world of lasting peace, adheres to joint contribution and shared benefits to promote the building of a world of universal security, adheres to cooperation and mutual benefits to promote the building of a world of common prosperity, adheres to exchanges and mutual learning to promote the building of a world of openness and inclusiveness, and adheres to the concept of green and low-carbon to promote the building of a clean and beautiful world. Azerbaijan stands ready to join hands with China to make concerted efforts for regional and global peace, stability, prosperity and development and to build a China-Azerbaijan community with a shared future in the new era together.

Abstract of Speech by Hasan Abdullah Al-Dajah, Jordanian Sinologist and Professor of Strategic Studies of Al-Hussein Bin Talal University



Mr. Hasan Abdullah Al-Dajah, Jordanian sinologist and professor of Strategic Studies of Al-Hussein Bin Talal University delivered a speech themed on the Future of Chinese Modernisation.

Mr. Hasan pointed out that China had embarked on the road of a large-scale modernisation and provided an Eastern mode that combines traditional and modern development. Chinese modernisation is a unique global model in the history of human development, and also a new ideology and theoretical alternative for modernisation of human society created by China with its own national wisdom.

Mr. Hasan emphasised that Chinese modernisation aims at realising sustainable development in science, technology, economy, culture and other fields. Internally, China did not find its path towards poverty reduction at one stroke, but through taking continued and well-planned actions, in a bid to realise the sustainable, harmonious and green development of the country, society and the nature. Externally, the Belt and Road Initiative launched by China aims to find the common grounds between China and other countries and regional organisations, so as to achieve the new vision of common development.

Abstract of Speech by Fred Engst, American Sinologist and Professor of School of International Economics and Trade of University of International Business and Economics



Mr. Fred Engst, American sinologist and Professor of School of International Economics and Trade of University of International Business and Economics, through the perspective of economic development, illustrated the reason for China's rising and the high-quality growth of China's economy and analysed the misunderstandings Western scholars currently hold about China.

According to Mr. Fred Engst, today's China is no more what it used to be. It has risen. The main reasons for its rising are that the People's Republic of China owns the right to independent development, its control of military power guarantees its autonomy in politics and economy, and it opens itself to the world under

the premise of not harming its independence. As a matter of fact, China's rising has been more and more obvious since the financial crisis in 2008. So far, China's international image has improved, its economic scale has expanded substantially, and its international economic position is just next to the US, whom it also appears to be surpassing. China has become a great power that is more and more confident. The US started the trade war with an attempt to contain China who is challenging the hegemonic position of the US with its increasingly strong economic system and high technology. But the US failed to get what it wished for.

The Second World Sinology Lecture Concludes Successfully



On February 7th, the Second World Sinology Lecture themed Heritage Protection and Civilisation Inheritance co-hosted by the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) and Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) was successfully held in Qingdao World Sinology Centre.

Liu Li, President of BLCU, Wang Ke, Deputy Secretary-General of CAFIU and Ding Lianpu, Deputy Director of Qingdao Education Bureau delivered speeches respectively. Niu Xiping, Vice-President of International Confucian Association, and other guests from the globe attended the event. Christoph Harbsmeier, world-famous sinologist, professor emeritus of Chinese in University of

Oslo and professor of Chinese in Merton College of the University of Oxford, Thierry Melot, well-known urban planner and founder of IFADUR SAS d'architecture, Carsten Boyer Thøgersen, well-known sinologist in Denmark and former Consul-General of Denmark in Shanghai, and Deanna Gao, famous artist, art educationalist and chairwoman of Festival du Cinema Chinois de Paris, delivered keynote speeches respectively.

In his remarks, President Liu Li said that, as a country with a time-honoured civilisation, China has rich and precious cultural heritage resources, which are the driving forces for the nation's endless growth and has enriched the spectrum of global civilisations

with its own characteristics. Right now, how to inherit, protect, continue and develop these precious treasure is a global issue and is also an important aspect of Chinese modernisation.

Deputy Secretary-General Wang Ke expressed that China has always attached importance to the preservation of cultural relics and inheritance of cultural heritage. Wang hoped to take this Lecture as an important opportunity to further explore and reveal the charm of cultural heritage, revive the cultural relics and heritages and let more people from all over the world better approach cultural relics and heritages, know what kind of civilisation and country China is, and understand the significance of the Chinese civilisation for the development and progress of global civilisation, so as to make contributions to pave a broad way for the development of civilisation and human progress that “each civilisation respects its own unique beauty, and treasures the diversity of civilisations”.

Prof. Christoph Harbsmeier pointed out that, the best way to protect classical Chinese texts is to analyse, explain and reveal their contemporary value to the world. Christoph Harbsmeier then presented the project Thesaurus Linguae Service (TLS) he has spent more than 30 years developing. TLS compiles a large number of ancient Chinese texts and provides detailed comparative translation. In its resourceful corpus, the semantic of every word can be systematically and hierarchically analysed, and every concept is placed in a categorical system, showing how to promote the globalisation and systematically intensive reading of classical Chinese texts. Christoph Harbsmeier mentioned that global exegesis is the core tool for ancient Chinese texts to embrace the world. The protection and development of global Chinese classics should move towards a truly diversified, scientific, theoretical and systematic

path, blend in the current of world academic culture, and play an important role in the development of world academic culture. To promote the globalisation of cultural heritage conservation, it is necessary to transcend the concept of countries, broaden academic horizons and integrate Eastern and Western cultures.

With a view to the protection, utilisation, management and sustainable development of tangible cultural heritage, Mr. Thierry Melot cited the inheritance and protection of French cultural heritage as an example to interpret the philosophy, management methodology and protection measures of the historical heritages in French cities, such as strengthening government intervention and support for cultural heritages, establishing a complete legal system for cultural heritage and attracting entities such as foundations and associations to participate in the protection of cultural heritages through institutional motivation. He introduced his experience in cultural heritage protection and urban renewal and development through several cases he managed, such as the urban renewal in the old city of Lyon. Thierry Melot held that a complete protection system for cultural heritages should focus on not only the conservation and restoration, but also the combination with environmental protection, coordination with urban development and the equipment with corresponding legal system and administrative management mode. He advised that the protection of tangible urban heritages should not be limited to restoration of architectures but be expanded to a more extensive heritage development. The urban renewal should uphold the people-oriented urban development concept, realise the discovery of urban characteristics, continuation of urban context and preservation of urban memories in the protection of cultural heritage, and constantly

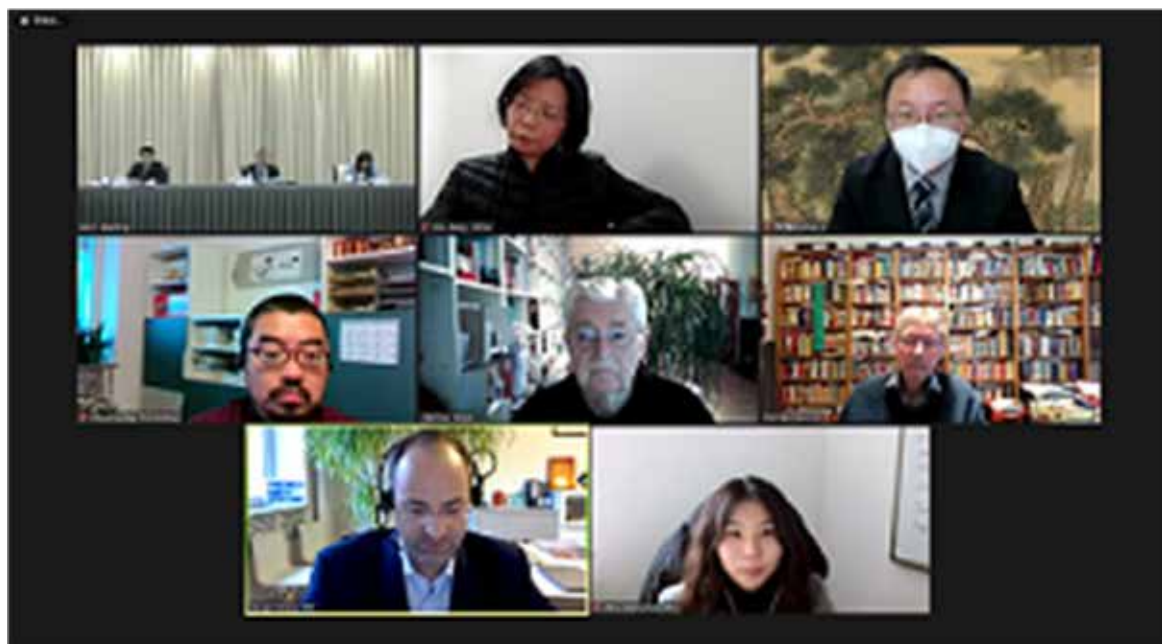
promote the healthy and sustainable development of cities.

Mr. Carsten Boyer Thøgersen commented on the statements about civilisation of Lin Yutang, Tcheng ki-tong and Ku Hung Ming (Tomson), three Masters of Chinese literature and great thinkers in cross-cultural communication in the era of convergence of old and new knowledge. For nearly a century, these three men of letters had been committed, directly in foreign languages, to bringing Chinese culture to the world, showing the true images of China and Chinese people, and interpreting the continuity of traditional Chinese cultural thinking in the form of knowledge and the difference between logic of Chinese and Western civilisations through the cross-cultural experience of the protectors and disseminators of these traditional Chinese culture derived from the same origin. These three Chinese culture interpreters, full of confidence, had been devoted to bringing Eastern learning to the West, the counter movement of Western learning spreading to the East. Their different perspectives on the characteristics and relations of Chinese and Western cultures are of great ideological value and significance. Mr. Thøgersen pointed out that different from the preaching style of the Western culture, the Chinese culture is characterised as the relatively compatible mentality, thought, behaviour, value orientation and national character. Taking this as an example, he then explained that the exchanges of civilisation has always been a two-way impact, rather than the one-way input or output, and the healthy development

of world civilisation requires the co-existence and co-prosperity of diversified cultures.

Ms. Deanna Gao, whose fine brushworks on figures are delicate in colour and ink, landscape painting full of antique taste, and animal painting clever and vivid in composition, began her speech with the skills she and her students used in paintings of landscapes, figures, flowers and birds, and cats, etc. Based on her experience of years of overseas teaching and spreading Chinese painting, Ms. Gao spoke about the heritage and development of traditional Chinese painting in France. She pointed out that Chinese painting, as a painting form with traditional Chinese artistic characteristics, has evolved a grand and unique system, aesthetic ideals and forms of expression during the development of over a thousand years. It has a long history and rich cultural connotations and boasts traditional Chinese philosophy. During the cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries, traditional Chinese painting has always been one of the most important carriers of Chinese culture. The world mainstream art community acknowledges the distinctive national artistic characteristics of traditional Chinese painting, its own system established in the world painting circle and its position on the world art stage. In the current context, however, the culture and artistic forms which used to have vitality have also lost their soil for survival. The protection of painting art should be conducted based on the inheritance of skills and concepts, which are the foundation of the inheritance and innovation of traditional Chinese painting.

Chinese Association for International Understanding and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Jointly Hold a Webinar



On January 13th, the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) jointly held a Webinar themed Promoting People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations, Enhancing Mutual Understanding and Friendship between China and Germany. Ai Ping, Vice-President of CAFIU and Former Vice-Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, delivered a speech. Representatives of NGOs and scholars from China and Germany had in-depth discussions around enhancing mutual understanding between Chinese and German people

and mutual learning between Chinese and German civilisations.

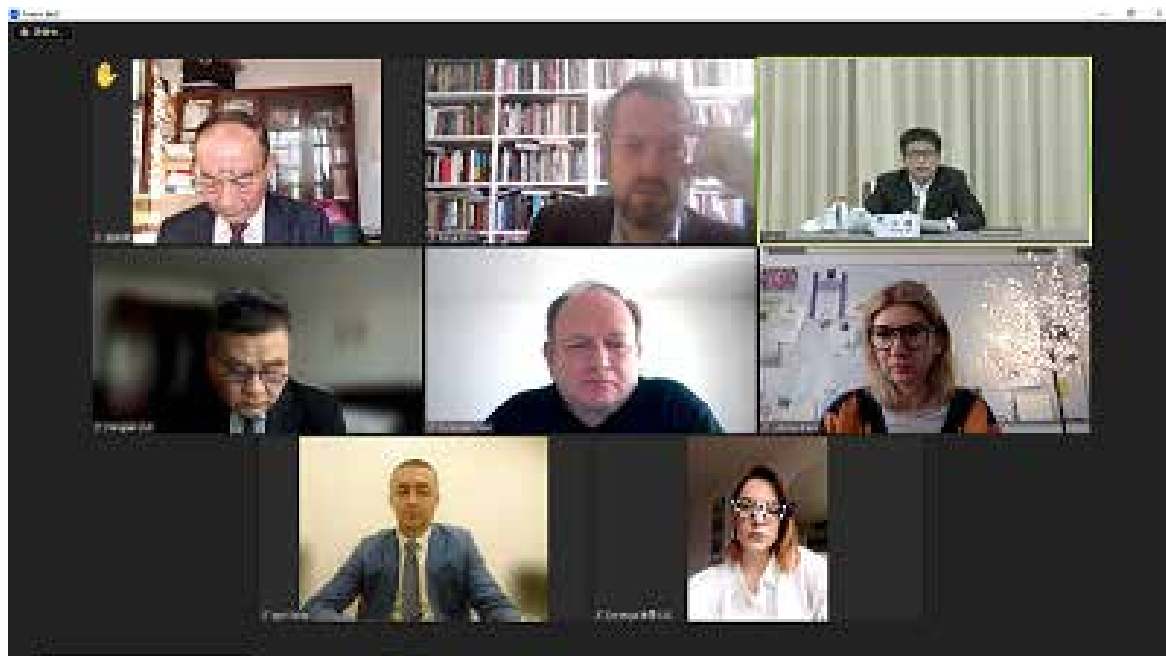
In his speech, Vice-President Ai Ping emphasised that China and Germany keeping cooperation and dialogue adapts to the current of times and historical development trend, which not only serves the interests of both countries, but also makes positive contributions to the world peace and development. Friendship between the two peoples holds the key to amity between countries. Both China and Germany should actively promote cultural exchanges, strengthen people-to-people communication and deepen the mutual learning between Chinese and

German civilisations so as to enhance public support for the bilateral relationship featuring mutual respect, inclusiveness, exchanges and mutual learning between civilisations and win-win cooperation.

Professor Wu Jiang, Dean of the School of German Studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University, and Professor Zhang Ji, Associate Dean of the School of International Relations and Public Affairs and Director of China Foreign Cultural Exchange Research Centre at Fudan University, explored new measures and channels from different perspectives to enhance mutual understanding between Chinese and German people and promote exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations of China and Europe countries.

Sergio Grassi, Chief Representative of FES Beijing Office, Thomas Meyer, Professor of Political Science in Dortmund University of Technology, and Thomas Heberer, Professor of Political Science and East Asia Studies in University of Duisburg-Essen agreed that people should fully respect the exploration of paths towards modernisation by different civilisations. They also pointed out that through exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations, we can enhance China-Germany and China-Europe mutual understanding and mutual respect, facilitate practical cooperation and promote a sustained and sound relationship between the two sides.

CAFIU holds a Webinar on the New Vision of China-Bosnia and Herzegovina Cooperation and Role of Civil Society



On January 17, the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) and the Association of Bosnia-China Friendship co-hosted the webinar themed New Vision of China-Bosnia and Herzegovina Cooperation and Role of Civil Society. Representatives and scholars from both sides had in-depth discussion around such topics as enhancing people-to-people exchanges and promoting exchanges and mutual learning between Eastern and Western civilisations.

Wang Ke, Deputy Secretary-General of CAFIU pointed out that pragmatic cooperation between China and Bosnia and Herzegovina embraces the trend of

the times and history, serves mutual benefits and contributes to the peaceful development of the region. Under the new circumstances, civil society organisations of the two countries shall actively play their role in boosting cultural exchanges, mutual learning among civilisations and pragmatic cooperation, thus advancing the development of bilateral relationship.

Dr. Cui Hongjian, senior research fellow and director of the Department for European Studies, China Institute of International Studies, Dr. Jin Canrong, professor and deputy dean of School of International Studies, Renmin University of China, Dr. Li Yonghui,

professor of the School of International Relations and Diplomacy, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Dr. Kong Tianping, research fellow of the Institute of European Studies of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, professor and doctoral supervisor of University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences shared their suggestions and views on deepening people-to-people friendship between China and Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Central and Eastern Europe. Slobodan Šoja, historian and former Ambassador of Bosnia to France and Egypt, Faruk Borić, president of the Association of Bosnia-China Friendship, Igor Soldo, chairman of the Belt and Road Initiative Board of Directors, Ljiljana Stević (Stevich),

dean of Banjaluka Faculty Sinology Cathedre and director of Confucius Institute in Banja Luka, Doroteja Klačar, lecturer on Cathedre for Sinology of East Sarajevo University delivered speeches from the perspectives of promoting exchanges and mutual learning between Eastern and Western, as well as between Chinese and Bosnian civilisations, deepening China-Bosnia and Herzegovina people-to-people cooperation, and facilitating exchanges in the fields of education, media and publishing. They also expressed their willingness to contribute their efforts and wisdom in elevating people-to-people exchanges and communication between China and Bosnia and Herzegovina to a new height.

Highlights of SIRONET 2022



This year is of great significance to the development of the Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network (SIRONET). Under the concerted efforts of all members, new progress has been achieved. We have enjoyed closer exchanges and communications through distinctive seminars and dialogues, made steady progress in “small and beautiful” projects and jointly implemented the Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Development Initiative with resolute and concrete actions. All the above efforts have further promoted the connectivity, understanding and affinity among peoples from countries along the Belt and Road.

When the Communist Party of China convened its 20th National Congress, many members sent letters or emails to congratulate China on the complete success of the 20th CPC National Congress and the election of the new central leadership of the CPC, which speaks a volume about the reservoir of goodwill of SIRONET members to the CPC and Chinese people.

In order to demonstrate the work of SIRONET in 2022 and foster consensus, we would like to share with all of you Ten highlights of SIRONET 2022.

Let us join hands and work together to deliver an even brighter future of SIRONET, and contribute our efforts to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.



In January, SIRONET members launched The Beijing Vision and sent congratulatory messages to 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics



In February, in collaboration with China Charity Federation, SIRONET Secretariat donated Health Kits to Nepal

“看今日中国 谋全球发展”系列主题活动启动会
OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE THEMATIC EVENT SERIES
GLIMPSSES INTO PRESENT-DAY CHINA: MAXIMISING SYNERGY FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT
国际志愿服务工作委员会成立大会
INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE

指导单位：中共中央对外联络部
GUIDE: THE COMMISSION OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA

主办单位：中国志愿服务联合会 中国民间组织国际交流促进会 中国国际交流协会
CO-ORGANISER: CHINA VOLUNTEER SERVICE ASSOCIATION CHINA FOLIO FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROMOTION CHINA ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

时间：北京，2022年4月27日
27 APRIL 2022, BEIJING, CHINA

In April, SIRONET members took active part in the thematic event series Glimpses into Present-Day China: Maximising Synergy for Global Development



Cementing China-Egypt Development and Cooperation with the Focus on Global Development Initiative
聚焦全球发展倡议，促进中埃发展合作网络研讨会

In May, SIRONET Secretariat and Egyptian civil society organizations jointly organized the seminar themed Cementing China-Egypt Development and Cooperation with the Focus on Global Development Initiative



From July to August, SIRONET members participated in the Nepal Smiling Children Project and China-Cambodia Love Kits Project with the support of the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund



In August, SIRONET members participated in the International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on the Global Development Initiative

中国民主促进会、美国前参议员埃德·马基、欧洲议会副议长李俊、
 爱尔兰总理埃亨·中国和平发展基金会秘书长徐理国、中国科学院北京医院院长梁海斌、
 北京中国公益基金会秘书长刘志华、埃及前外长巴提曼、联合国副秘书长潘文瀚等出席了会议。



In September, SIRONET Secretariat played host to the webinar themed **Conducting High-quality Cooperation through the Belt and Road Initiative and Promoting the Rights to Development Enjoyed by All**



In October, SIRONET members sent letters or emails to congratulate China on the complete success of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and expresses their wishes on the election of the new central leadership



In November, SIRONET Secretariat held the major seminar themed Enhancing International Civil Society Solidarity and Cooperation to Build a Better World for All, in which over 200 delegates from 70 plus countries participated



In November, SIRONET Secretariat organized the webinar themed Advancing the International NGOs Network for Poverty Reduction Cooperation with the Focus on the Implementation of the Global Development Initiative, participated by around 100 delegates from over 30 countries

Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Held 2022 "Colourful World" International Youth Painting Invitational Exhibition——Mauritian Exhibition and Award Ceremony



On January 7, the 2022 "Colourful World" International Youth Painting Invitational Exhibition —Mauritian Exhibition and "Chinatown Light" Award Ceremony was held at the Chinatown Art Centre in Mauritius. The exhibition was co-organised by Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and other organisations. The Mauritius Youth Painting Exhibition was organised by Mauritius Chinatown Foundation. More than 200 people attended the event, including the Chinese Ambassador to Mauritius Zhu Liying, members of the Mauritian Parliament, officials from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Environment as well as

people from all walks of life.

Since May 2022, the "Colourful World" International Youth Painting Invitational Exhibition has initiated collection of paintings from young people all over the world. The organiser collected more than 300 pieces of work to participate in the exhibition, 16 of which won the first, second and third prizes respectively. The year 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relationship between China and Mauritius, and the young Mauritians used their brushes to advocate biodiversity conservation and convey the friendship between China and Mauritius through artistic exchanges.

The 2022 Belt and Road Economic & Environmental Cooperation Forum Held in Beijing



On January 10, themed New Pattern, New Opportunities and New Future of Belt and Road Green Development and Cooperation, the 2022 Belt and Road Economic & Environmental Cooperation Forum was held in Beijing. The forum was sponsored by All-China Environment Federation (ACEF) and co-organised by the ACEF's the Belt and Road Eco-Industry Cooperation Working Committee, Beijing WEP Eco-Tech Development Research Institute, and the Grand Canal Ecological Culture Centre. The forum was composed of the Opening Ceremony, the Dialogue on the Belt and Road Development, the International Forum on the Belt and Road Carbon

Neutrality, the International Forum on the "Silk Road Canal 'Green World" Ecology and Culture. More than 200 people attended the forum, including leaders from relevant Chinese government departments, experts and entrepreneurs, as well as representatives from embassies of over 20 countries along the Belt and Road and international organisations. During the forum, ACEF's the Belt and Road Eco-Industry Cooperation Working Committee was officially established. Thirty cases of the Belt and Road green supply chain and 70 recommended technologies and products for the Belt and Road eco-environmental management were released during the forum.

Seminar on Philanthropy in the Post-pandemic Era Held in Hong Kong



On January 12, a seminar on Philanthropy in the Post-pandemic Era was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, co-organised by China Daily and the Asian Financial Forum. As a panel discussion of the Asian Financial Forum, the seminar attracted over 100 heads of foundations, philanthropic organisations, entrepreneurs and

members of the financial and legal sectors. This year's Forum is themed Accelerating Transformation: Impact•Inclusion•Innovation. The seminar on Philanthropy in the Post-pandemic Era is the 12th one co-organised by China Daily and the Asian Financial Forum.

World Federation of Acupuncture-Moxibustion Societies Organised 2023 Global Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Internet Spring Festival Gala



On January 23, the World Federation of Acupuncture-Moxibustion Societies held the 2023 Global Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Online Spring Festival Gala themed Acupuncture Connects the World- Our Common Future to celebrate the Chinese traditional

festival with colleagues from the Chinese medicine and acupuncture community around the world and friends who are fans of the Chinese medicine and acupuncture.

China NGO Network for International Exchanges and China Volunteer Service Federation launched International Civil Rescue Volunteer Action ---Solidarity against Earthquake

On February 10, China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and China Volunteer Service Federation (CVSF) jointly launched the international civil rescue volunteer action called Solidarity against Earthquake, actively coordinating Chinese social organisations, enterprises and other civil society groups to carry out relevant humanitarian rescue operations in a safe and orderly manner according to the rescue requests from Turkiye and Syria.

CNIE is an umbrella organisation of Chinese NGOs specialising in international exchanges and

cooperation, dedicated to promoting friendship between Chinese and foreign people. CVSF is a non-profit national-wide social organisation formed by volunteer service organisations and volunteers, dedicated to promoting the development of volunteer service. In April 2022, CNIE and CVSF jointly initiated the founding of the International Volunteer Service Working Committee. The international civil rescue volunteer action will be carried out within the framework of the International Volunteer Service Working Committee.

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Held a Dialogue on Local Cooperation between China and Germany



On March 1, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries held an online dialogue meeting on local cooperation between China and Bavaria, Germany. Mr. Huang Qiang, Governor of Sichuan Province, Mr. Deng Yunfeng,

Vice-Governor of Shandong Province and Mr. Zhang Xin, Vice-Governor of Guangdong Province discussed with Mr. Söder, Governor of Bavaria. An agreement on twinning relationship between Sichuan and Bavaria was signed at the meeting.

Beijing International Exchange Association Holds the 2023 AAAS Scientific Session



Organised by Beijing International Exchange Association, the 2023 AAAS scientific session Female Sci-Tech Talents Capacity Building on Entrepreneurship was successfully held on the morning of March 3 at the Washington Convention Centre. Renowned experts from the U.S., Portugal and China shared their experience on female

entrepreneurship from the perspective of achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the supporting system of female entrepreneurs within the EU's Entrepreneurship Competence Framework as well as China's efforts on promoting the capacity building of female sci-tech talents.

