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# CONTENTS

## GLOBAL CIVILISATION INITIATIVE

- 01 Xi Jinping -- a Champion of Mutual Learning among  
Civilisations by Xinhua writer Huang Yinjiazi

## THE FOURTH DIALOGUE ON EXCHANGES AND MUTUAL LEARNING AMONG CIVILISATIONS

- 06 Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng Attended the Opening  
Ceremony of the Fourth Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual  
Learning Among Civilisations
- 08 A New Chapter of Mutual Learning among Civilisations  
along the Silk Road Was Written in Dunhuang
- 12 Dialogue on Exchanges, Mutual Learning among Civilisations  
Held in Dunhuang
- 14 Foreign Representatives Gather in Dunhuang for Civilisation  
Dialogue

## Parallel Forums:Silk Road Civilisation Illuminating the Future

- 16 Global Dialogue on Civilisational Inheritance and the Digital  
Silk Road
- 18 Building a Community of Civilisations: A New Vision for  
International Cooperation among Museums
- 20 Strengthening the Judicial Foundations of Shared Values of  
Mankind
- 22 Youth Power in Dialogue among Civilisations
- 24 Equality and Inclusiveness & Harmonious Coexistence:  
Multi-dimensional Narratives of Civilisations from Writers'  
Perspective

# CONTENTS

- 26 Ecological Actions to Carry Forward the Shared Values of Mankind
- 28 Seeking Harmony without Uniformity in Mutual Learning: Diversity of Civilisations from the Sinologists' Perspective
- 30 Reconstruction and Rebirth of Civilisations in the AI Era

## **Supporting Activities**

- 34 Appreciating the Silk Road Culture--Foreign Delegates Praised the Vitality of Chinese Civilisations
- 38 Dunhuang Culture Blooms with Extraordinary Splendour in Exchanges and Mutual Learning-- Dunhuang IP Exhibition of the Fourth Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations

## **SILK ROAD PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONNECTIVITY**

- 40 CNIE Hosted "Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity" China-Africa Friendship for International Volunteer Service in Kenya
- 43 CNIE Delegation Visited Madagascar and Hosted "Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity" China-Madagascar Exchange Meeting on Cooperation
- 46 "Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity" China-Cambodia Traditional Instrument Concert Held in Phnom Penh

# CONTENTS

## **LATEST NEWS FROM CHINESE NGOS**

- 48 CNIE Delegation Attended Africa-China People-to-People Dialogue in Zambia
- 52 Chinese NGOs Actively Participated in Myanmar Earthquake Relief
- 54 China Foundation for Peace and Development Donated 5 Tons of Medicine to Earthquake-stricken Areas of Myanmar
- 55 Wu Opera “Legend of the White Snake” Debuts in Vienna
- 58 “Dunhuang Cultural Week” Held in Mongolia
- 61 “The Youth Table Tennis Programme—Photo Exhibition of Zhou Enlai and the Bandung Conference & China-ASEAN (Indonesia) Youth Table Tennis Training Camp” Opened in Jakarta
- 63 “Faxian-Xuanzang Scholarship Fund” Officially Launched in Nepal
- 64 CANGO Representatives Attended the International Symposium Celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Antonio Meneghetti Foundation

# Xi Jinping -- a Champion of Mutual Learning among Civilisations

by Xinhua writer Huang Yinjiazi

Tolerance, coexistence, exchanges and mutual learning among different civilisations play an irreplaceable role in advancing humanity's modernisation process when the future of all countries are closely connected.

In the book-lined office of Professor Stelios Virvidakis at the University of Athens, Greece's oldest and most esteemed academic institution, a letter is carefully preserved like a precious, delicate bridge model.

It came from President Xi Jinping, delivered to congratulate the inauguration of the China-Greece Centre for Mutual Learning of Civilisations in the time-honoured university in February 2023.

"It was a delightful surprise to us all," said Virvidakis, his philosopher's gaze softening at the memory.

In the letter, Xi noted that over 2,000 years ago, China and Greece, two civilisations glittering at each end of the Eurasian continent, made groundbreaking contributions to the evolution of human civilisation.

Now, he pointed out, it is of profound historical and contemporary significance for them to work



◀ A visitor takes a close look at a painting during an art exhibition of creations by Chinese artist Qi Baishi at the B&M Theocharakis in Athens, Greece, Nov 12, 2019. [Photo/Xinhua]

together to promote exchanges and mutual learning and enhance the development of all civilisations.

The well-preserved letter reflects Xi's broader vision of fostering cross-cultural dialogue and mutual learning as a catalyst for global peace and development, a vision that has been driving his diplomatic action worldwide.

That aspiration is best embodied in his Global Civilisation Initiative (GCI), launched at a conference between the Communist Party of China (CPC) and global political parties in 2023, where he stressed that tolerance, coexistence, exchanges and mutual learning among different civilisations play an irreplaceable role in advancing humanity's modernisation process when the future of all countries are closely connected.

With the GCI nearing its second anniversary on Saturday, Xi's vision-- to build a world where

civilisations don't collide but converse-- has become ever more relevant, standing both as a nod to ancient ties and as a bold stitch in a fraying global tapestry.

#### NO MATTER EAST OR WEST

"The boy was an avid reader of literature and history, particularly captivated by the poetry of Du Fu," said Chen Qiying, who taught Xi Chinese in 1965, when Xi was a teenager.

Du, the most revered realist poet of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), was celebrated for his profound empathy and compassion for the common people in his works. This spirit is echoed in Xi's firm commitment to fighting poverty and promoting the wellbeing of the people.

"Xi implored me to recommend more of Du Fu's works," Chen recalled. "He possessed a composed and rational demeanour, immersing himself in extensive reading and profound contemplation."



*An Asian culture carnival is held during the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilisations at the National Stadium, or the Bird's Nest, in Beijing, May 15, 2019. [Photo/Xinhua]*



Four years later, as an educated young student, Xi volunteered to go to Liangjiahe, a secluded and impoverished village nestled in the rugged terrain of Northwest China's Shaanxi Province.

With him, Xi carried two suitcases filled with books. During his seven years there, Xi devoured whatever books he could find, from ancient Chinese textbooks to foreign novels such as Stendhal's *The Red and the Black* and Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*.

"During those days in Liangjiahe, Xi never ceased reading and reflecting," said Dai Ming, who shared a cave dwelling with Xi back then.

Xi's keen interest in different cultures has since continued unabated, whether as a local official or as the top leader of China. When serving as secretary of the CPC Zhejiang Provincial Committee, he invited scholars to deliver lectures on both Chinese and Western philosophies.

In November 2019, during his first state visit to Greece, Xi toured the Acropolis Museum at the foot of the iconic and ancient Acropolis. He took a moment at the sunlit entrance on the museum's third floor, the east and west sides adorned with exquisite pediment sculptures from the Acropolis: the birth of Athena and the fierce contest between her and Poseidon for the title of protector of Athens.

"This is Greece's version of *Shan Hai Jing*," Xi remarked, alluding to China's own ancient compendium of ancient myths and legends.

"He is not only interested in a single artifact," said Dimitrios Pandermalis, then president of the Acropolis Museum. "He possesses a profound fascination with the civilisation of ancient Greece and its history, along with a keen appreciation for

ancient Greek art and architecture."

## THE POWER OF EXCHANGES

Ahead of his state visit to Peru in November last year, Xi published a signed article in Peruvian newspaper *El Peruano*, reflecting on the Intihuatana stone -- an ancient altar in Machu Picchu where the Incas tracked the seasons and crafted calendars based on the shifting solar shadows.

He noted that the structure operated on the same principles that inspired the creation of sundials in ancient China. "Many told me that Chinese and Peruvian peoples would feel an instant warmth upon their first encounters and would have a *deja vu* when appreciating each other's ancient artifacts," he wrote.

Since assuming Chinese presidency, Xi has made cultural exchange a hallmark of his diplomatic approach. Cultural exchange is a project aimed at "bringing the hearts and minds of the people closer together and building a better future," he has said, a belief he has carried since his days working at local positions.

In 2005, as Zhejiang's Party chief, he sent a congratulatory letter to the opening of the province's first Culture Week programme in Europe. Among the highlights of the event, held in France's Alpes-Maritimes, was an exhibition of paintings by local farmers and fishermen --- a unique form of Chinese folk art depicting the rhythm and beauty of rural and coastal life through vibrant hues and evocative forms.

As Chinese president, Xi has been consistently advocating for mutual respect, mutual understanding and mutual learning between different cultures and civilisations.



*French tourists Paul Baisse (L) and Jules Ramos visit Yuyuan Garden area in East China's Shanghai, Feb 1, 2025. [Photo/Xinhua]*

During his state visit to France in May last year, he brought Chinese translations of classic French novels as gifts for his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron. In return, Macron presented him with a special work by French author Victor Hugo.

Thanks to his steadfast push, cultural exchanges between China and other countries are flourishing. Over the past decade, China has organised over 30 cultural and tourism year programmes with other countries, notably those participating in Belt and Road cooperation.

“The Chinese civilisation ... has become what it is today through constant interactions with other civilisations,” Xi said at the opening ceremony of the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilisations held in May 2019 in Beijing.

“Long-term self-isolation will cause a civilisation to decline, while exchanges and mutual learning will sustain its development. A civilisation can flourish

only through exchanges and mutual learning with other civilisations,” he added.

#### COLOURS OF CIVILISATIONS

In recent years, some scholars and politicians in the West have been peddling once again the clash of civilisations theory, first proposed by American political scientist Samuel Huntington in 1993. They portray some civilisations as superior to others and seek to divide countries through ideological and racial lines.

On the background of the resurgence of such sentiments is a world undergoing unprecedented transformations rarely seen in a century. Global South countries, on a collective rise, are demanding their legitimate right to modernisation in louder voices, while the global deficits in peace, security, development and governance are growing ever larger.

In Xi’s eyes, no civilisation in the world is superior to



others, and every civilisation is equal and unique. “Civilisations have come in different colours, and such diversity renders exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations relevant and valuable,” he said in a speech at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris in 2014.

Months after he put forward the GCI in 2023, Xi explained at an event in San Francisco that the initiative is meant “to urge the international community to address the imbalance between material and cultural advancement and jointly promote continued progress of human civilisation.”

China’s global initiatives, including the GCI, advocate for an egalitarian and inclusive order in pursuit of just and coherent global governance, said Ong Tee Keat, president of the Belt and Road Initiative Caucus for Asia Pacific and a former transport minister of Malaysia.

In the meantime, he said, “the GCI has driven home a clear message that all nations have the right to choose their own development paths in their pursuit of modernisation, which is not necessarily synonymous with Westernisation.”

In September 2024, at the opening ceremony of the summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Xi put forward 10 partnership actions for modernisation, with the first being “Partnership Action for Mutual Learning among Civilisations.”

“China will enhance people-to-people and cultural exchanges with Africa, champion mutual respect, inclusiveness and coexistence of different civilisations on our way to modernisation, and strive together for more fruitful outcomes under the GCI,” Xi said.

As the world order designed to serve the interests of Western powers no longer meets the evolving needs and aspirations of Global South countries, a call for change is a natural response, said Ong, the Malaysian expert.

“This must occur ... free from any mental subordination. Only then can an environment conducive to a nation’s modernisation and development be established,” he said. “In this respect, the GCI undoubtedly serves as a potent enabler.”

## Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng Attended the Opening Ceremony of the Fourth Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilisations



In his speech, Han Zheng said that exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations are important driving forces for the advancement of human civilisation as well as world peace and development. President Xi Jinping pointed out that civilisations become richer and more colourful with exchanges and mutual learning. As the futures of all countries are closely interconnected, inclusiveness, coexistence, exchanges and mutual learning among different civilisations will contribute to the common progress of humanity and promote global prosperity and development. Countries should respect each other

and achieve mutual success, jointly advocating respect for the diversity of civilisations and promoting the respective and collective prosperity of different civilisations. Countries should seek common ground while reserving differences, face challenges together, and take the common values of humanity as a bond to jointly paint a beautiful picture of human civilisation. Countries should keep pace with the times and uphold fundamental principles while breaking new ground. Countries need to continuously harness the relevance of their histories and cultures to the present times, and push for creative transformation and

innovative development of their fine traditional cultures in the process of modernisation. Countries should engage in sincere dialogue and win-win cooperation, eliminate estrangement and misunderstanding through dialogue and communication, enhance mutual understanding and friendship, and promote harmonious coexistence among different civilisations, and foster understanding and affinity among people of all countries.

Han Zheng pointed out that Chinese modernisation, as a new form of human civilisation, draws upon other civilisations and contributes unique wisdom to the development of world civilisations. China will firmly stand on the right side of history and the side of the advancement of human civilisation. Together with other countries, China will uphold multilateralism, actively implement the Global Civilisation Initiative, vigorously carry forward the Silk Road spirit, and substantiate high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, injecting strong impetus into the development and advancement of human civilisation.

Dithapelo Keorapetse, Speaker of the National Assembly of Botswana, Sommad Pholsena, Vice-President of the National Assembly of Laos, and Bidya Devi Bhandari, former President of Nepal, among other foreign representatives, stated that the world today faces ongoing conflicts

and severe challenges in global governance. China has provided stability and certainty to the world through its own development. By promoting the Silk Road spirit and advancing the Belt and Road Initiative, China has strongly supported the economic and social development of the vast number of developing countries. The three global initiatives proposed by President Xi Jinping, including the Global Civilisation Initiative, not only help enhance mutual understanding, exchanges and mutual learning among different Civilisations but also lay a solid foundation for building a new type of international order characterised by harmonious coexistence and win-win cooperation among countries in the world. They expressed the belief that the continuous implementation of the three global initiatives will bring more tangible benefits to the people of all countries.

The Dialogue was jointly hosted by the Chinese Association for International Understanding and the People's Government of Gansu Province. About 400 people, including political party leaders, statesmen, experts and scholars, heads of international organisations and non-governmental organisations from various countries, as well as representatives from relevant Chinese departments, attended the Dialogue.

Prior to the Dialogue, Han Zheng had a group meeting with foreign delegates.

## **A New Chapter of Mutual Learning among Civilisations along the Silk Road Was Written in Dunhuang**

In the thousand-year-old mural of Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, a special symbol tells the story of exchanges among civilisations.

*Three Rabbits Sharing Three Ears* depicts three rabbits chasing each other, with each two sharing one ear. It is said that its earliest version appeared in Dunhuang in the 6th century, and it had travelled across the desert along the ancient Silk Road, over mountains and rivers, leaping onto British ceramic tiles, integrating into Egyptian pottery and jumping

cross the clock faces of German churches.

Its origin remains a mystery and no common conclusion was drawn about its implications. This symbol witnessed that civilisations did not walk alone despite the long distance across mountains and seas over the long time.

Currently, the world is undergoing profound changes. In such an era that calls for mutual understanding and inclusiveness, it is more than





ever imperative to enhance exchanges and mutual learning among different civilisations.

From May 29 to 31, the Fourth Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilisations was held in Dunhuang of Gansu Province. Around 400 delegates from all over the world gathered here to listen to the echo of history for pooling wisdom and strength to march forward.

*Dun* means grandness and *huang* means splendour. As a pivotal hub of the Silk Road, Dunhuang emerged as a crossroad where diverse civilisations intertwined. Here, people learned that beauty defies singular definition—it thrives in cherishing one’s own elegance, admiring the grace of others, and harmonising all beauties in a shared radiance.

A new journey starts from this ancient road where people’s hearts are connected. In the past, the Silk Road resonated with camel bells echoing through mountain passes and smoke drifting over desert sands. Nowadays, the running iron dragons (high speech trains) consolidate physical connectivity,

the synergies fostered among the policies and regulations build institutional connectivity, while the ever richer and growing cultural exchanges facilitate people-to-people connectivity. The ancient silk road rekindled its glory with the participation of over 150 countries in the Belt and Road cooperation.

“China’s BRI represents the revival and continuation of the ancient Silk Road,” said former Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari, who shared how the initiative transformed Nepal from a landlocked country to a land-linked one. She spoke highly of the BRI as it not only enhanced global connectivity and economic cooperation but also built bridges for collaboration and mutual understanding among civilisations.

Ancient Dunhuang was shaped by the time-honoured exchanges and integration between the Chinese civilisation and diverse cultures. Today, Dunhuang is invigorating itself by embracing the Digital Silk Road.

“Change leads to connectivity, and connectivity



ensures longevity. In the digital era, we no longer rely solely on the ancient Silk Road—we now have countless Digital Silk Roads linking 8 billion people worldwide,” remarked Martin Woesler, a German sinologist and Fellow of the European Academy of Sciences, who spoke enthusiastically about AI’s potential in facilitating exchanges among civilisations.

“China has harnessed cutting-edge AI technologies to showcase the charm of cultural heritage,” said Dithapelo Keorapetse, Speaker of Botswana National Assembly while touring Dunhuang. He observed that AI-powered preservation ensures precious artifacts and traditions endure for future generations.

Zhang Qian of the Han Dynasty, Xuanzang of the Tang Dynasty, and Zheng He of the Ming Dynasty—each embarked during their younger years on quests to bridge civilisations and explore distant lands. In Dunhuang, we encountered their modern counterparts.

Siriya Witchawut from the Thailand-China Cultural and Economic Association unveiled a virtual

exhibition hall of intangible cultural heritage, co-designed by young people from both nations—a dynamic testament to how “digital natives” are infusing new vitality into people-to-people bonds between Thailand and China. Eliso Kvitsiani, Rector of the Georgian International University, expressed unwavering faith in the younger generation as a driving force for cultural exchanges. Buke Basyigit, a Turkish student at Beijing Language and Culture University, observed that young people today effortlessly engage in cultural dialogues and transmission through daily social media interactions.

Civilisations become richer and more colourful with exchanges and mutual learning. This dynamic interplay serves as a significant driving force for the advancement of human civilisations as well as world peace and development. It has become more significant and far-reaching amid the accelerating global changes unseen in a century.

“I highly commend the Global Civilisation Initiative proposed by the Chinese side in 2023,” said Sommad Pholsena, Vice-President of the Lao





National Assembly. Many other guests expressed similar views, saying that the global initiatives proposed by China lay the cornerstone for building a new international order characterised by harmonious coexistence and win-win cooperation, which will make our world better, fairer and more peaceful.

On June 10th this year, the international community will celebrate the first International Day for Dialogue among Civilisations proposed by China. In Dunhuang—a convergence hub

of civilisations—where the grandeur of cultural exchange along the Silk Road is being rekindled, people have unanimously recognised that China is committed to promoting harmonious coexistence among diverse civilisations, always standing on the right side of history and on the side of human civilisation advancement.

Strolling through Dunhuang, one gazes upon the Mingsha Dune, where countless grains of sand converge into towering dunes, composing a majestic symphony when the winds arise.

## Dialogue on Exchanges, Mutual Learning among Civilisations Held in Dunhuang

By Deng Zhangyu | chinadaily.com.cn



*Actors gave a performance on the theme of Dunhuang Grottoes culture and art, at the Fourth Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilisations, Dunhuang, Northwest China's Gansu Province, on May 30, 2025. [Photo/Xinhua]*

The Fourth Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilisations was held in Dunhuang in Northwest China's Gansu Province on Friday, bringing together politicians, heads of international organisations, scholars and experts to discuss the significance of exchanges and dialogues between different civilisations in a world facing many conflicts.

With the theme "Carrying forward the Silk Road Spirit to Gather Momentum for the Implementation of the Global Civilisation Initiative", the dialogue included eight sessions to discuss related topics in different fields, such as the development of museums, law and technologies.

At the opening ceremony held on Friday morning, Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng stated that

exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations are important drivers for the advancement of human civilisation and the peaceful development of the world.

Han urged nations to engage in sincere dialogue and pursue win-win cooperation, using conversation and communication to eliminate barriers and misunderstandings, enhance mutual understanding and friendly relations, promote harmonious coexistence among different civilisations, and foster closer ties among people from various countries.

Politicians attending the dialogue said that China has provided stability and certainty to the world through its own development when the world faces various conflicts. They also noted that the three major global initiatives proposed by China, such as the Global Civilisation Initiative, help

different cultures understand and learn from each other. These initiatives also create a strong base for a new international order where countries live together peacefully and work together for mutual benefit.

The dialogue was held in Dunhuang, a place where cultures and arts from different countries and regions came together thousands of years ago. It stands as a testament to China's long-standing openness and inclusiveness toward different civilisations.

The dialogue is hosted by the Chinese Association for International Understanding. Around 400 participants attended the event, including political leaders, experts, scholars, and heads of international and non-governmental organisations from multiple countries.

## Foreign Representatives Gather in Dunhuang for Civilisation Dialogue

By Zhang Changyue | Global Times

In late May, the city of Dunhuang, a key historical hub of Eastern and Western cultures in Northwest China's Gansu Province, basked in clear and refreshing weather under a brilliant blue sky. The rugged Mingsha Mountain, renowned for the musical sounds produced by wind-blown sands when the wind blows, stood in silent majesty. To the close north of the mountain's massive golden dunes stood the city's international convention centre, where some 400 guests from 60 countries host cultural exchanges and mutual learning.

At the Fourth Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilisations which kicked off on Friday, representatives stressed the importance for different civilisations to enhance dialogue and cooperation to achieve mutual benefit and greater understanding.

They called for boosting mutual respect and inclusive exchange in cultural interactions to jointly address global challenges, and upholding cultural roots while promoting innovation and the creative development of traditional culture in the context



of modernisation.

Jointly organised by the Chinese Association for International Understanding and People's Government of Gansu Province, the event is themed "Carrying Forward the Silk Road Spirit to Gather Momentum for the Implementation of the Global Civilisation Initiative."

Around 400 participants attended the event, including current and former political leaders, heads of non-governmental organisations, renowned Sinologists, experts and scholars, prominent cultural figures, writers and museum directors. They represented 60 countries covering Europe, Asia, Africa, North America and South America, including Germany, the UK, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, South Korea, Iran, Russia, South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, the US, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador and Argentina.

Fan Jinshi, honorary president of Dunhuang Academy, explained in her speech in the opening session how the city of Dunhuang, a vital hub along the ancient Silk Road, developed into a key crossroads where Chinese civilisation intersected with foreign cultures.

"The cultural heritage represented by the Dunhuang cave art and the manuscripts from the Mogao Library Cave reflects a spirit of openness and grandeur that embraced and integrated diverse foreign influences, embodying the inclusive, coexistent and character of Chinese culture," Fan said.

Fan emphasised that the ancient Silk Road played a monumental role in advancing economic development and cultural exchange for humanity, expressing her hope that people draw upon its

legacy of mutual learning and cultural dialogue to foster the flourishing of cultures as nations across the world share the mission of pursuing peace and development.

Following the opening session, parallel sessions on literature, museum cooperation, digital Silk Road, legal foundation of humanity's shared values, youth cross-cultural dialogue and AI will be held on Friday and Saturday. The foreign guests are also taken to Mogao Caves, Mingsha Mountain, Crescent Lake and Dunhuang Museum to enjoy the charm of the ancient city with a history of 2,000 years.

"I'm very glad to be part of this truly diverse and international community that has brought together writers, scholars and professors from all parts of the world," said Najeeba Arif, chairperson of the Pakistan Academy of Letters, a premier national institute to promote Pakistan literature and language.

Arif, who participated in the parallel session on literature, told the Global Times that she believed the symposium will bridge the gaps between different nations. "Human beings tend to fear everything which is unknown. If we know people around us, we are not fearful of them. We just start loving them. Knowing is the key to creating a more harmonious society," said Najeeba Arif.

As night fell, rows of upright poplar trees lining the roads stretched their branches skyward, standing tall and proud. They were like ceremonial guards welcoming visiting foreign guests and watching over the ancient city. At a crossroads, an illuminated sculpture glowed brightly against the darkening sky with lighted words in both Chinese and English "Dunhuang, A Place Appeals to All Hearts."

## **Global Dialogue on Civilisational Inheritance and the Digital Silk Road**



On the afternoon of May 30, the parallel forum “Global Dialogue on Civilisational Inheritance and the Digital Silk Road,” as part of the 4th Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations, was held in Dunhuang.

The forum focused on key areas of Silk Road civilisation studies in the new era under the theme “Carrying Forward the Silk Road Spirit and Pooling Strength for the Implementation of the Global Civilisation Initiative.” Discussions centred on topics such as humanistic research on the Digital Silk Road, translation studies of cultural heritage, and archaeological studies of Silk Road sites, providing a platform for experts and scholars to exchange

ideas and share achievements, and working to build a strong synergy for exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations.

More than 50 experts and scholars from universities, governments, cultural institutions, research institutes, and enterprises in China, Japan, India, Nepal, Uzbekistan, Russia and other countries participated. They shared frontier practices, landmark achievements, and insights in the protection, inheritance, and study of cultural heritage, and explored in depth the crucial role of digital technologies. The participants emphasised the need to leverage the rich cultural heritage of the Silk Road and apply modern technologies to





build a diversified, orderly, and multidimensional system for digital development and management; to improve protection mechanisms, enrich inheritance models, and expand dissemination channels for civilisational achievements; and to promote their modern transformation and highlight their contemporary value.

The forum was hosted by the Dunhuang Academy. In recent years, the Academy has safeguarded the “genes of civilisation” with dedication and

empowered cultural inheritance with science and technology. From high-definition data collection of Mogao Grottoes murals, to the global digital sharing of manuscripts from the Library Cave, from the open access of the “Digital Dunhuang” database, to immersive exhibitions using virtual reality technology, the Academy has enabled the thousand-year-old Dunhuang to radiate new vitality in the new era through diverse and innovative approaches.

## **Building a Community of Civilisations: A New Vision for International Cooperation among Museums**

On the afternoon of May 30th, as one of the parallel forums of the 4th Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations, the forum “Building a Community of Civilisations: A New Vision for International Cooperation among Museums” was held in Dunhuang. Experts and scholars from universities and cultural institutions in seven countries, including the ROK, Thailand, Hungary and Tunisia, gathered to discuss the future of international museum cooperation.

Participants noted that international museum

cooperation is an important vehicle for civilisational dialogue and has become a key pathway for promoting exchanges and shared progress among civilisations. They emphasised the need to overcome geographical boundaries, expand channels of cultural exchange, and advance mutual learning among civilisations. With the rapid iteration of artificial intelligence and digital technologies, museums face both major opportunities and significant challenges. The digital revolution in heritage protection, immersive upgrades in cultural communication, and scenario-





based innovations in educational functions are reshaping the core roles of museums. Experts called for deep integration of AI technologies to drive cultural digitisation, innovative development, and research utilisation, and to jointly promote the digitalisation of global museum collections. They also highlighted the importance of engaging more young people in museum work to foster higher-level exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations.

The forum was hosted by the Chinese Association

for International Understanding and organised by the China National Archives of Publications and Culture and the Eastern Zhejiang Canal Museum. The Chief of the China National Archives of Publications and Culture stated that the institution would fully leverage the unique role of museums in promoting exchanges and mutual learning, implement the Global Civilisation Initiative, and act as an ambassador for mutual learning among civilisations, so as to contribute to the development of the Silk Road spirit in the new era.

## **Strengthening the Judicial Foundations of Shared Values of Mankind**



On the afternoon of May 30th, the parallel forum “Strengthening the Judicial Foundations of Shared Values of Mankind,” as a component of the 4th Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations, was held in Dunhuang. More than 50 experts and scholars from nine countries, including China, Germany and the United Kingdom, engaged in in-depth discussions on the topic.

During the keynote session, scholars elaborated from a macro perspective on the relationship between the common values of all humanity

and both international and domestic laws, as well as how legal systems can embody and safeguard these values in global governance. They emphasised that the common values of all humanity should serve as a driving force for the development of international law, pushing reforms toward greater fairness, rationality and effectiveness. At the domestic level, they highlighted the need to integrate these values into legislation, law enforcement, and judicial processes, making them the soul and core of the rule of law. Participants further stressed the importance



of strengthening international cooperation in addressing global challenges, and of transforming common values into concrete international actions through the formulation and improvement of laws and regulations.

The forum was hosted by China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL). In recent years,

CUPL has made remarkable achievements in legal research, talent training and public service, while establishing long-term stable partnerships with leading law schools abroad, thus building a bridge for academic exchange between Chinese and international legal communities.

## Youth Power in Dialogue among Civilisations



On the evening of May 30th, the parallel forum “Youth Power in Dialogue among Civilisations,” as part of the 4th Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations, was held in Dunhuang.

The forum was hosted by the Chinese Association for International Understanding and organised by the Schwarzman College of Tsinghua University. More than 30 youth representatives from the Schwarzman Scholars international delegation and a delegation of European, American and African

NGO friends came together under the theme “The Youth Power of Cross-Civilisation Dialogue.” Discussions focused on topics such as cultural inheritance and innovation, and cross-cultural collaboration. The sessions were co-chaired by Professor Pan Qingzhong, Executive Dean of the Schwarzman College, and Joshua Woodard, a Schwarzman Scholar from the United States of America.

In an era of accelerating globalisation and cultural convergence, young people are increasingly



becoming key drivers of cultural understanding and civilisational exchange. Exploring their role in dialogue among civilisations helps to inspire creativity and pool youthful strength. This forum brought together youth representatives and practitioners from diverse national and cultural

backgrounds to examine how young people today can exercise creativity and foster cooperation in cross-cultural settings, address shared global challenges through innovative practices, and become bridges for cross-civilisation dialogue while respecting cultural diversity.



## **Equality and Inclusiveness & Harmonious Coexistence: Multi-dimensional Narratives of Civilisations from Writers' Perspective**

On the evening of May 30th, the parallel forum “Equality and Inclusiveness & Harmonious Coexistence: Multi-dimensional Narratives of Civilisations from Writers' Perspective”, as part of the 4th Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations, was held in Dunhuang. The forum was organised by the China Writers Association and co-organised by China National Publications Import & Export (Group) Corporation.

More than ten writers and literature enthusiasts

from China, Pakistan, the United States, Australia and other countries shared their personal experiences and approaches to writing, engaging in in-depth exchanges on the forum's theme. Through their literary works, participants vividly conveyed the unique charm and profound depth of different civilisations.

The participants noted that Dunhuang, with its openness and inclusiveness, has long borne witness to the integration and coexistence of Eastern and Western civilisations. As writers,





publishers and leaders of literary institutions, they expressed their commitment to continuing this mission of civilisational dialogue through literary creation, publishing and cross-cultural exchange, and to serving as transmitters of culture in the new era.

The forum also featured lively discussions and interactions, where participants exchanged views on how literature can serve as a powerful force to advance exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations.



## Ecological Actions to Carry Forward the Shared Values of Mankind



On the morning of May 31st, the parallel forum “Ecological Actions to Carry Forward the Shared Values of Mankind,” as part of the 4th Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations, was held in Dunhuang. More than 50 experts and scholars from different countries, including China, Kenya and Japan, engaged in in-depth discussions on the theme.

During the keynote session, 12 speakers shared their insights and experiences on human ecological action from multiple perspectives. Discussions focused on the severe status quo of environmental

pollution and strategies to address it, distinctive ecological conservation practices in various countries, and implementation plans for action initiatives. Participants emphasised the importance of strengthening international cooperation and exchanges, establishing regular communication mechanisms, encouraging the development and application of green technologies, and jointly promoting global ecological conservation.

The forum was hosted by Lanzhou University. Leveraging its unique geographical advantages and academic strength, Lanzhou University



has established platforms such as the State Key Laboratory of Grassland Agro-Ecosystems and the Western Ecological Security Collaborative Innovation Centre. In ecologically fragile areas such as the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau, the Loess Plateau and the Hexi Corridor, the university has carried out research on ecological restoration

and desertification control. It has developed multiple technologies for grassland degradation management, sandstorm prevention, and soil and water conservation, with some results applied in ecological restoration projects in Belt and Road partner countries in Central and Western Asia.



## Seeking Harmony without Uniformity in Mutual Learning: Diversity of Civilisations from the Sinologists' Perspective



On the morning of May 31st, the parallel forum “Seeking Harmony without Uniformity in Mutual Learning: Diversity of Civilisations from the Sinologists’ Perspective” was held in Dunhuang.

The forum was hosted by the Chinese Association for International Understanding and organised by Beijing Language and Culture University. Leading Sinologists and Chinese culture researchers from Europe, Asia and Latin America gathered to discuss the theme of civilisational diversity and explore pathways for coexistence and mutual enrichment.

At the forum, Sinologists from Germany, Ecuador, Peru and other countries discussed topics including the role of artificial intelligence in civilisational exchange, city-to-city diplomacy, and the function of Sinology in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape. Domestic experts from universities and research institutions shared insights on the unique value of art in civilisational diversity, new paradigms of “human-AI collaborative translation,” and transformations in Eastern and Western painting traditions. The participants engaged actively in



discussions, asking questions and offering detailed answers, covering areas such as art, humanities, economics and technology.

The participants emphasised that they would leverage their expertise and frontier technologies, including digital tools, to transform the “sparks”

generated in face-to-face exchanges into systematic research outcomes. They aim to further advance Sinology and promote cultural communication between China and other countries, enhancing mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation.



## **Reconstruction and Rebirth of Civilisations in the AI Era**

On the morning of May 31st, the parallel forum “Reconstruction and Rebirth of Civilisations in the AI Era,” as part of the 4th Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations, was held in Dunhuang.

The forum was hosted by the Chinese Association for International Understanding and organised by the Contemporary World Press, with Contemporary Art & Culture (Beijing) Cultural Exchange Co., Ltd. and Fuzhou Qinghulu Cultural Creative Co., Ltd. as co-organisers. The guests included Lu Kang, Vice-Minister of the International

Department of the CPC Central Committee and Hazim Omar, Chairman of the Republican People’s Party of Egypt and Chair of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee. The participants included political leaders, scholars and prominent cultural figures from multiple countries, who engage in in-depth dialogue on civilisational diversity and the inheritance of Silk Road spirit in the AI era. The forum also featured the global debut of the Contemporary World Press’ six-language interactive Silk Road pop-up book. The forum was hosted by Zhou Yun, a well-known host of CCTV Finance.





### Part One: Global Debut of the Six-Language Interactive Silk Road Pop-Up Book

During the launch ceremony, six guests—Lu Kang, Hazim Omar, Bernie Luwando (Director of Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation), Askar Mejetov (Editor-in-Chief, Dushan Publishing, Kyrgyzstan), Hamid (Professor, University of Tehran and Foreign Director, Confucius Institute), and Miao Zhihao (Secretary-General, Spanish Association of Sinology and Chinese Studies)—demonstrated the interactive functions in Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish, and Arabic. The book integrates

3D depictions of Mogao murals, caravan journeys, Samarkand markets, the Roman Colosseum, and other sites with multilingual narration, creating immersive experiences that highlight connections between civilisations and serve as a new medium for Silk Road cultural exchange.

### Part Two: Two Parallel Discussions

1. “The New Silk Road in Pop-Up Book: Echoes of Millennial Caravans and Reconstruction of Silk Road Civilisation”

Experts including Han Yuhai (Deputy Dean,





Institute of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, Peking University), Zahir Shaganjiri (Spokesperson, Republican People's Party of Egypt), Ding Jianning (Party Secretary, Yangzhou University), Askar Mejetov, Qi Bin (Director, Video Department, China News Service), and senior media professional Wu Yi discussed the historical significance of Silk Road civilisation and its contemporary relevance. They noted that the interactive Silk Road pop-up book vividly conveys the spirit of “peaceful cooperation and mutual benefit” in a visual, auditory, and tactile format.

## 2. “The New Silk Road in the AI Era: Global Youth Co-Creation and the Renewal of Digital Civilisation”

Experts including Bernie Luwando, Ni Kaomeng (Deputy Secretary-General, Wenzhou Association of Social Sciences), Hervé Juvin (Former MEP, International Trade Committee), Li Ke (Secretary-General, Zhongguancun Super-Interconnection New Infrastructure Alliance), Bridget Chiduo Onochi (Editor-in-Chief, The Guardian, Abuja Bureau, Nigeria), Lin Bingyang (Chairman, Fuzhou Qinghulu Cultural Creative Co., Ltd.), and Hartred Zenanga (Editor-in-Chief, Sunday News, Zimbabwe) discussed how AI technologies affect civilisational exchange. They emphasised promoting youth participation in civilisational dialogue through digital platforms and building a digital New Silk Road.



**大会成果清单**

项目名称	项目内容	举办时间	举办地	内容概述
当代世界出版社、福州青年文化联盟、福州青年出版社	《丝绸之路》全球青年共创展	2023年6月11日	福州	全球青年共创《丝绸之路》全球青年共创展，以“丝路精神”为主题，展示“一带一路”倡议成果。
当代世界出版社、当代世界出版社北京分公司、福州青年出版社	“一带一路”青年共创展”落成	2023年6月11日 2023年7月	福州	以青年共创展为主题，展示“一带一路”倡议成果，加强国际青年交流互鉴，促进青年创新创业，举办青年论坛、出版成果发布会、青年创新创业大赛等。
当代世界出版社、福州青年文化联盟、福州青年出版社	发布《丝路青年共创展》成果报告	2023年6月11日	福州	发布《丝路青年共创展》成果报告，并举办“丝路青年共创展”成果发布会。

### Part Three: Declaration of the Global Youth Co-Creation Initiative

The forum concluded with the releasing of the Silk Road Civilisation Global Youth Co-Creation Initiative and presentation of the forum’s outcome report.

This forum combined Silk Road culture, publishing and technology to vividly illustrate the conference

theme “Carrying forward the Silk Road spirit and pooling strength for the implementation of the Global Civilisation Initiative”. The Contemporary World Press pledged to continue its mission of preserving and disseminating civilisation, contributing practical publishing expertise to the implementation of the Global Civilisation Initiative and the Shaping of a shared human future.





**Supporting Activities**

## **Appreciating the Silk Road Culture-- Foreign Delegates Praised the Vitality of Chinese Civilisations**

The most beautiful interactions between civilisations are exchanges, integration, mutual learning, mutual reflection and mutual achievement.

From 29th to 31st May, the 4th Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations was held in Dunhuang, Gansu Province. During the event, the delegates visited places such as the city of Dunhuang and Jiayuguan,

the pearl of the Gobi Desert. Through these visits, they experienced the coexistence of ancient and contemporary civilisations, gained insights into the Chinese civilisation's long history, openness, inclusiveness, and creative development, and felt the vitality of Chinese modernisation.

Foreign delegates visited the Mogao Grottoes and immersed themselves into the colourful ancient murals and vividly coloured sculptures;



*On 29th May, delegates of the 4th Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations visited the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang*



they explored the Xuanquanzhi Posthouse and unveiled the secret of the historical prosperity of this Silk Road posthouse; they gazed out over the Yumenguan Pass and the Jiayuguan Pass and experienced the profound vicissitudes of this impregnable frontier pass.....

Strolling through the ancient sites along the Hexi Corridor, the thousand-year-old Silk Road culture came into view. Foreign guests could experience up close the enduring vitality of Chinese civilisation, and found by themselves that inclusiveness and diversity are the keys to Chinese civilisation's continuous development and preservation through the ages.

After over 20 years, Christopher Merrill, an American writer and Director of the International Writing Programme at the University of Iowa, once again visited the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang. He highly praised that this place remains as attractive as ever. "Sculptures and murals of the Mogao

Grottoes are not only exquisite artworks, but also vivid depiction of historical exchanges among different cultures, ethnic groups, and beliefs."

David Adam Peat from the "Friends of Socialist China" of UK gained a deeper understanding of the Silk Road spirit after visiting these Silk Road sites. "The ancient Silk Road itself was a path of convergence for Eastern and Western civilisations. The Belt and Road Initiative builds on the profound history and cultural heritage of the ancient Silk Road, which reflects the integration of historical culture and contemporary civilisation."

Comparing the past with the present, the sands of Mingsha Dune, the lines and colours of the Mogao Grottoes, and the bricks and stones of Jiayuguan Pass all stand as time-honoured witnesses of the echoing sound of camel bells along ancient paths. When history transforms into a tangible reality with the help of technology, the continuation of civilisation then takes on a deeper sense of futurity.



*On 31st May, guests of the 4th Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations experienced a night tour at the Jiayuguan Pass Scenic Area*

Not far from the Mogao Grottoes Digital Exhibition Centre stands a sand-yellow cave theatre. Foreign guests felt instantly bumping into the world of Dunhuang murals as soon as they stepped inside. When they watched around, the guardian and Bodhisattva sculptures nearby suddenly began to dance; when they looked up, dancers in flying apsara costumes descended gracefully from the air. The theatre was then filled with exclamations of wonder.

This is the immersive experience show “Ancient Sound of Dunhuang” newly launched in recent years. Through integration of stage design, holographic projections, and 3D wirework, those song and dance scenes from the ancient murals can be restored and presented to reality.

“The entire performance was full of surprise. New characters appeared unexpectedly around us, singing and dancing,” said German sinologist Christoph Harbsmeier, who was still enchanted after the show. “This innovative artistic expression combines aesthetic beauty with historical charm.”

Diana Fruzsina Farkas from the Hungarian-Chinese Friendship Association was also impressed by the performance. At Jiayuguan, another show pleased her with surprise. Under the night sky, “the impregnable Jiayuguan Pass” was glittering and overflowing with colours: beams of light outlined the pass’s contours, and holographic displays painted vivid scenes on the ancient walls. With music and narration, the historical events and prosperous trade of this frontier seemingly came alive right in front of the guests.

“This kind of performance that utilises modern technology to showcase China’s cultural heritage is refreshing. My understanding of the history of Jiayuguan and the culture of the Great Wall has

been enriched,” Farkas said.

Innovations in cultural and artistic expression have brought new glammers to Chinese civilisation, while deep-rooted civilisational innovation showcases how Chinese modernisation creates a new model for human progress. During the visit, the guests gained insights into the innovative modernisation practices in Dunhuang and Jiayuguan, and felt the ambition of this ancient civilisation in taking the lead in modernisation.

Leveraging their abundant wind and solar energy resources, both cities are pursuing low-carbon energy conservation, green transformation and the development of ecological civilisation in advancing modernisation.

At the Shouhang High-Tech’s Dunhuang 100MW Concentrated Solar Power Molten Salt Tower Plant, there are over 12,000 heliostats concentrically circling around the 260-meter-tall heat-absorbing tower. This spectacular scene left the delegation from the Botswana National Assembly in admiration. They expressed great interest in the plant’s technology, which uses heliostats to precisely focus sunlight onto molten salt, enabling 24-hour continuous and stable power generation.

“Botswana ranks among the top countries in the world for annual sunshine duration, but currently only 1% of our nation’s electricity comes from renewable energy resources,” said Speaker Dithapelo Keorapetse. “If such projects could be introduced to Botswana, it would not only meet Botswana’s domestic demand for renewable energy power generation, but also generate revenue by exporting electricity to our neighbouring countries.”

Travelling from Dunhuang to Jiayuguan, vast



*On 1st June, delegates of the 4th Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations paid a field visit to the Jiugang Group's demonstration project of smart grid and new energy on-site consumption*

Gobi Desert and rows of wind turbines with giant rotating blades formed a unique “scenery” outside the bus windows, which allowed the foreign guests to directly experience the booming green energy momentum in this region.

At the power dispatch and control centre of Jiugang Group, Javid Gasumov, Vice-President of the Georgian Chamber of Culture for International Affairs, eagerly presented his business card to the staff after listening to the briefing of the group's demonstration project of smart grid and new energy on-site consumption. “China's development in the green energy industry has attracted worldwide attention. Georgia needs to cooperate with China in this regard,” said Gasumov.

The ancient Silk Road, crowded with merchants

and thriving trade, once witnessed profound exchanges and integration of diverse civilisations. Today, from the dialogue venue to ancient Silk Road sites, performance theatre, and new energy companies... the Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations promoted by China is building bridges for harmonious coexistence of civilisations and shared prosperity among all nations in the new era.

From the strategic Silk Road city to the pearl of the Gobi Desert, foreign guests gained a vivid and in-depth understanding of the defining characteristics of the Chinese civilisation: continuity, creativity, unity, inclusiveness and peacefulness. The journey to China allowed them to listen to the echoes of history and see the boundless future of civilisation.

## **Dunhuang Culture Blooms with Extraordinary Splendour in Exchanges and Mutual Learning-- Dunhuang IP Exhibition of the Fourth Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations**

With the theme of “Timeless Dunhuang: The Symphony of History and Modernity”, the exhibition brought together the efforts of four institutions, namely Dunhuang Academy, the Contemporary World Press, Duzhe Publishing Group, and Dunhuang Culture and Tourism Group. The exhibition featured four sections: the Dunhuang Culture In-Depth Learning Hall, the Contemporary Dunhuang Technology Experiences, the Dunhuang Cultural and Creative Product Market and the Dunhuang Culture and Art,

which fully demonstrated the distinctive charm of Dunhuang Culture as a treasure of the integration of four major civilisations, and presented a painting of civilizations spanning thousands of years for guests both from home and abroad.

Stepping into the Dunhuang Culture and Art exhibition area organised by Dunhuang Academy, the ancient splendour of the Silk Road comes alive vividly. In its “Treasures Discovered in the Desert” section, high-resolution images of cultural heritage sites around Dunhuang and six



magnificent grottoes clearly showed an epic scroll painting of nature and culture, offering domestic and international guests a visual journey across the thousand-year Silk Road. The “Paintings on the Walls” section showcased a selection of precious, high-fidelity replicas of Dunhuang murals, from cave architecture, painted sculptures and sutra stories to flying apsaras, Silk Road costumes and trade and transportation, which systematically decoded Dunhuang arts from multiple dimensions.

The most attractive part of this exhibition was the “Digital Dunhuang Immersive Exhibition: Dunhuang Grotto Digital Lab” in the “Digital Symbiosis” section. It leveraged Tencent’s gaming technology and integrated cutting-edge gaming tools, including 3D modelling, physical rendering and global dynamic lighting of game engine, and VR scenes to create a 1:1 high-resolution and 3D reconstruction of Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes Cave 285. Wearing VR headsets, visitors could travel virtually between ancient and modern Dunhuang, becoming contemporary writers of the ancient civilisation.

The thematic book exhibition area, presented by the Contemporary World Press and Duzhe Publishing Group, was filled with a rich literary atmosphere. Duzhe Publishing Group showcased over 200 volumes of books in more than 100 types, selected from five major categories, namely academic works on Dunhuang studies, distinctive local culture of Gansu, ethnic culture, exchanges and mutual learning and the foreign language edition of Duzhe magazine “Dunhuang

Volume”. These books offered a multidimensional interpretation of Dunhuang’s historical and cultural value from historical, cultural, ethnic and artistic perspectives. The Contemporary World Press, in collaboration with authoritative publishing houses such as Foreign Languages Press, Shanghai Joint Publishing Press, China Social Sciences Press, China Textile & Apparel Press and Peking University Press, presented more than 500 volumes of high-quality books in over 200 types in Chinese, English, French, Arabic, Japanese and other languages. In this exhibition section, an 8-meter-long pop-up book titled “The Silk Road”, written in six languages, namely Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Russian, and Arabic, attracted visitors’ attention. Its grand scale and multilingual expression made it an iconic piece showcasing the cultural essence of the Silk Road.

At the Dunhuang Cultural and Creative Product Market organised by the Dunhuang Culture and Tourism Group, over 100 cultural and creative products themed on Dunhuang culture were presented. These products, inspired by the patterns, colours and other elements of the Dunhuang murals, varied from clothes that combine traditional charm with modern aesthetics, household supplies integrated with Dunhuang cultural themes, and crafts such as sculpture replicas, handmade embroidery, and ceramics that showcase the exquisite skills of Dunhuang arts. Here, foreign guests experienced more than 10 interactive activities and were deeply impressed by the charm of Dunhuang culture.



## **CNIE Hosted “Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity” China-Africa Friendship for International Volunteer Service in Kenya**

On May 10, 2025, the “Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity” China-Africa Friendship for International Volunteer Service was held at the Hope Primary School in Mathare Slum, Nairobi, Kenya. The event was co-organised by China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and the Dream Building Service Association. Li Jun, Vice-President of CNIE delivered opening remarks at the event. Attendees included Wang Ke, Deputy Secretary-General of CNIE, Sun Yanan,

Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Kenya, Liu Yimenghan, Founder of the Dream Building Service Association, Stephen Cheboi, National Chairman of the National Council of NGOs of Kenya, Danba, Chief of Mathare, David Otieno Matinde, Principal of Xiaoying Dream Building Primary School, Regina, Principal of Hanka Primary School and over 100 NGOs, community and government representatives and students.

Nearly 50 representatives from CNIE and other



*Li Jun, Vice-President of CNIE attended the event and delivered a speech*



*Stephen Cheboi, National Chairman of the National Council of NGOs of Kenya, attended the event and delivered a speech*





*Liu Yimenghan, Founder of the Dream Building Service Association delivered a speech*

Chinese NGOs, enterprises and universities visited slum communities to evaluate the “small and beautiful” livelihood projects for local children. They handed out free lunch to students and talked with the teachers and students. Local students spontaneously welcomed the Chinese delegation at the event site waving Chinese and Kenyan national flags, expressing goodwill through traditional songs and dances. During the event, organisations including Beijing Women's Association for Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Overseas Chinese, Beijing Changier Education Foundation, Beijing Yuecheng International Cultural Exchange Co., Shanghai Normal University, Pacific Plus Group and Blazing Youth donated clothing and school supplies to the Hope Primary School. Hebei Academy of Fine Arts Folk Orchestra and Kenyan students performed national music with distinct cultural elements and engaged in active interactions. Following the event, Vice-President Li Jun held discussions with leaders of NGOs from 15 Kenyan counties on strengthening China-Kenya NGO cooperation and supporting high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

During its stay in Kenya, the delegation met with Moses Mwambu Mabongah, Chairperson of the Public Benefit Organisations Regulatory Authority (PBORA), Kiptoo, Director General of the PBORA, and Stephen Cheboi, National Chairman of the National Council of NGOs, exchanging views on enhancing mutual learning and cooperation between the two peoples of China and Kenya. The delegation visited Nairobi Railway Station to learn about the operation of the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway and StarTimes Media to study the “Access to Satellite TV for 10,000 African Villages” project.

This initiative forms part of the “Silk Road People to People Connectivity” Action Plan on International Volunteer Service, jointly launched by CNIE and China Volunteer Service Federation (CVF) during the 7th China-Africa People’s Forum in Changsha, Hunan Province in July last year.



*Chinese delegates donated school supplies to the Hope Primary School students*



*CNIE Vice-President Li Jun had a talk with representatives of public welfare organisations from various counties of Kenya*



*CNIE delegation met with the representatives of the Public Benefit Organisations Regulatory Authority (PBORA)*



*Hanka Primary School students welcomed the CNIE delegation*



*CNIE Vice-President Li Jun encouraged the slum students to study hard for a better future*



*The CNIE delegation offered lunch to Hanka Primary School students*

## **CNIE Delegation Visited Madagascar and Hosted “Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity” China-Madagascar Exchange Meeting on Cooperation**

At the invitation of the Madagascar-China Friendship Group of the National Assembly of Madagascar, Li Jun, former Vice-Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee and Vice-President of CNIE, led a six-member delegation to visit Madagascar from May 11th to 14th, 2025.

During the delegation’s visit, Justin Tokely, Speaker of the National Assembly of Madagascar and Razafinarivo Augustin, Deputy Speaker met with the delegation. The delegation exchanged views with Rafidi, Director of the Madagascar Economic Development Bureau as well as leaders of local NGOs on Belt and Road cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

On May 12th, CNIE and the Chinese Embassy in Madagascar jointly hosted the “Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity” China-Madagascar Exchange Meeting on Cooperation. Li Jun, Vice-President of CNIE, Ji Ping, Ambassador of China to Madagascar, Andriamananoro Razafinarivo Augustin, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Madagascar, Johnny Rakotoarisoa, Chairman of the Madagascar-China Friendship Group, Rakotonirina, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Population and Solidarity attended the event and delivered speeches. Approximately 150 representatives from

government agencies and NGOs participated in the event.

A donation ceremony was also held at the venue. China Reproductive Health Industry Association, Beijing Changier Education Foundation, Federation of Wenzhou Blazing Youth donated medical supplies, water filters and clothes to Madagascar partners and signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with local institutions.

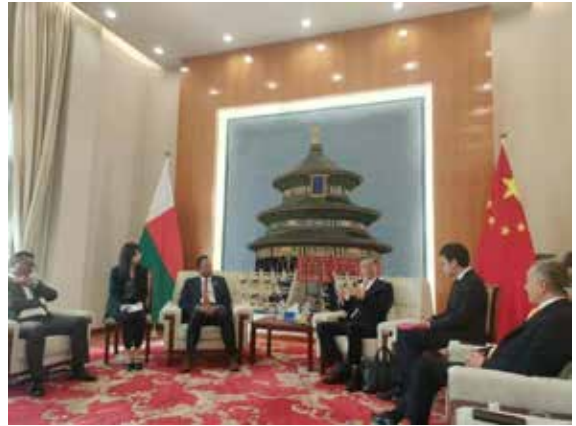
On May 13th, CNIE and the Economic Development Board of Madagascar co-hosted China-Madagascar Pragmatic Cooperation Dialogue. More than 20 representatives from Chinese NGOs, enterprises and media attended the meeting. Rafidi Josielle, Director of the Economic Development Board of Madagascar, briefed the Chinese representatives on Madagascar's investment and business policies and cooperation projects, and expressed her willingness to provide policy guidance and support for Chinese enterprises and NGOs to invest and carry out cooperation in Madagascar.

In addition, the delegation also went to the Confucius Institute at Antananarivo University and Xiaoniaowo School to study the Chinese education programmes in the local area and the feasibility of the “Chinese Education + Vocational Skills” project.





*Justin Tokely, Speaker of the National Assembly of Madagascar, met the delegation*



*Li Jun, Vice-President of CNIE, held talks with Andriamananoro Razafinarivo Augustin, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Madagascar*



*The "Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity" China-Madagascar Exchange Meeting on Cooperation*



*Li Jun, Vice-President of CNIE attended the "Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity" China-Madagascar Exchange Meeting on Cooperation and delivered a speech*



*Ambassador Ji Ping attended the "Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity" China-Madagascar Exchange Meeting on Cooperation and delivered a speech*



*Andriamananoro Razafinarivo Augustin, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Madagascar, attended the "Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity" China-Madagascar Exchange Meeting on Cooperation and delivered a speech*



Representatives of Chinese NGOs donated materials to Madagascar



Representatives of Chinese and Madagascar organisations signed MoUs



CNIE and the Economic Development Board of Madagascar co-hosted a China-Madagascar Pragmatic Cooperation Dialogue



The Delegation Visited the Confucius Institute at Antananarivo University



The Delegation Visited the Confucius Classroom in Xiaoniaowo School



The Students of Xiaoniaowo School singing the song "I wanna say thank you" in Chinese



## **“Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity” China-Cambodia Traditional Instrument Concert Held in Phnom Penh**

On April 6th, the “Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity” China-Cambodia Traditional Instrument Concert was successfully held in Phnom Penh. The event was attended by Li Ji, Cultural Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Cambodia, officials from Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts of Cambodia and Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia, along with guests from various sectors.

Co-organised by the Cambodia office of China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD), the Royal Academy of Cambodia, the Cambodia-

China Journalists Association, the Liu Jun Guzheng (Chinese zither) Studio, and Cambodia-China New Media Association, this cross-border musical celebration attracted over 500 attendees on the eve of the Cambodian New Year.

The concert vividly showcased the distinctive charm of traditional Chinese and Khmer music, which is of great significance to cultural exchanges between the two nations.

Centred on the theme “Ancient Khmer Melodies, New Silk Road Harmonies”, the event brought



together master musicians and cultural inheritors from both countries. The concert reached its climax when Chinese and Cambodian artists performed a collaboratively rearranged piece titled “*Yungong Xunyun* (Rhythms of the Cloud Palace)”. The innovative performance drew prolonged applause from the captivated audience.

Soy Sopheap, President of the Cambodia

China Journalist Association, said this concert demonstrated the vitality of traditional arts, serving not only as an artistic feast but also as a testament to the enduring friendship between Cambodia and China. He expressed hope that such activity would inspire greater public appreciation for musical heritage and encourage young generations to engage in cultural preservation and innovation.



## CNIE Delegation Attended Africa-China People-to-People Dialogue in Zambia

At the invitation of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) of the African Union, Li Jun, Vice-President of China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and former Vice-Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, led a six-member delegation to Zambia from May 7th to 9th to attend the Africa-China People-to-People Dialogue. The event brought together over 150 participants, including Han Jing, Chinese Ambassador to Zambia and representatives from all walks of life in China and Africa.

At the opening ceremony, Mutale Nalumango, Vice-President of the Republic of Zambia, Charity Charamba, Zimbabwe's Ambassador to Zambia,

Sissoko, Presiding Officer of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union and William Carew, Head of the ECOSOCC Secretariat attended the dialogue and delivered speeches. Selma Malika Haddadi, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission delivered a speech via video.

Li Jun said that China and Africa have always been partners who stand together through thick and thin and pursue win-win cooperation. China-Africa cooperation sets a benchmark for developing countries in exploring independent paths to modernisation and contributes to advancing the reform of the global governance system. NGOs of China and Africa should seize



*At the Dialogue*



*CNIE Vice-President Li Jun delivered a speech*



*Zambian Vice-President Nalumango delivered a speech*

the opportunity to strengthen strategic planning and practical alignment, so as to contribute more wisdom and strength toward building an all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era.

Vice-President Nalumango said that the Africa-China friendship transcends mountains and oceans and enjoys a time-honoured history. The Africa-China People-to-People Dialogue is of great significance, providing a platform for mutual learning, exchanges and cooperation among NGOs from both sides. It is hoped that Africa and China would further strengthen collaboration in various fields such as education, science, technology and

artificial intelligence, fully leverage the crucial role of people-to-people friendship in driving state-to-state relations, and contribute more strength toward building a China-Africa community with a shared future.

More than 40 representatives from China Foundation for Rural Development, China-Africa Business Council, Beijing Women's Association for Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Overseas Chinese, Lingfeng Foundation, Beijing Changier Education Foundation, the Amity Foundation, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Shanghai Normal University, Xiangtan University, Hebei Academy of Fine Arts, Shanghai United Media Group, Pacific Plus



Group, China Mining Investment Group, Beiqi Foton and other NGOs, universities, media and enterprises attended the meeting and exchanged views with African partners during the plenary session. Ambassador Han Jing met with Chinese representatives.

Before the opening ceremony, Zambian Vice-President Nalumango met with the delegation. The two sides had in-depth exchanges on strengthening cooperation between the two countries in various fields, especially people-to-people exchanges and artificial intelligence. During its stay in Zambia, the delegation also met with AU ECOSOCC



*Zambian Vice-President Nalumango took a group photo with some delegates*



*CNIE Vice-President Li Jun and Ambassador Han Jing joined some delegates for a group photo*

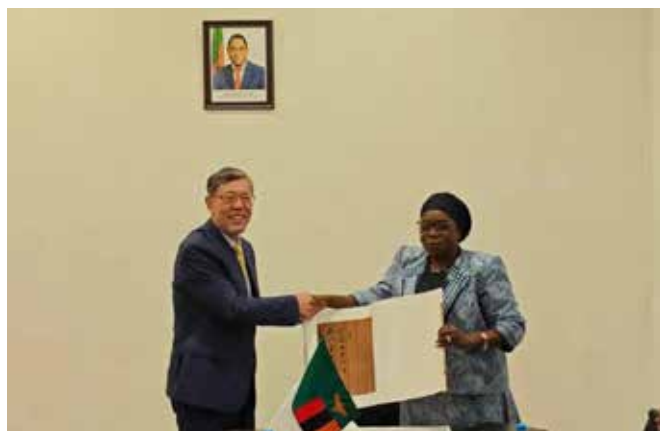


Presiding Officer Sissoko, and Head of ECOSOCC Secretariat William Carew, and exchanged views on strengthening China-Africa people-to-people

exchanges, building cooperation platforms and promoting people-to-people connectivity.



*Zambian Vice-President Nalumango met with the delegation*



*CNIE Vice-President Li Jun presented Zambian Vice-President Nalumango with a Calligraphic Work of Global Civilisation Initiative*



*CNIE Vice-President and Ambassador Han Jing exchanged views with the Presiding Officer of AU ECOSOCC*

## **Chinese NGOs Actively Participated in Myanmar Earthquake Relief**

After the earthquake struck Myanmar on March 28th, China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) immediately contacted the emergency management department for the registration process of non-governmental rescue forces participating in earthquake relief work and guided its member organisations and partners to orderly participate in the disaster relief.

Quite a number of Chinese non-governmental rescue forces responded swiftly and rushed to the disaster-stricken areas in Myanmar, including the China Blue Sky Rescue Team, the Zhejiang Ram Union Rescue Team, the Shenzhen Rescue Volunteers Federation, the Xiamen Dawn

Emergency Rescue Team and the Hangzhou Red Cross Wolves Rescue Team. These teams worked closely with local governments and international relief organisations to carry out life search and rescue, offer medical assistance and distribute supplies.

Many NGOs donated emergency relief supplies. The Red Cross Society of China provided a cash-based assistance of 1.5 million yuan (RMB) to the Myanmar Red Cross Society, along with 300 tents, 2,000 blankets, 600 folding beds, and relief packages for 2,000 affected families. The China Foundation for Peace and Development Myanmar Office provided consultation and coordinated the



local needs for Chinese NGOs coming to Myanmar for disaster relief. The Office also purchased US\$15,000 worth of food and daily necessities and sent them to the affected areas of Mandalay and Naypyidaw. The China Foundation for Rural Development Myanmar Office immediately responded to the emergency and carried out the “March 28 Myanmar Earthquake Relief Operation” on the ground. The first batch of supplies including

300 mosquito nets, 300 flora cakes and 1,500 boxes of mineral water were handed out in the hard-hit townships of Mandalay, benefiting 300 affected households. The Amity Foundation, Beijing One Heart Sphere Charity Foundation, Beijing Lianxin Charity Foundation and the Wenzhou Blazing Youth Community all responded and provided support based on local needs.



## China Foundation for Peace and Development Donated 5 Tons of Medicine to Earthquake-stricken Areas of Myanmar

On April 26, the China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD), in collaboration with the Shenzhen Foundation for International Exchange and Cooperation (SFIEC), the Shenzhen Ye Chenghai Charity Foundation and the China-Myanmar Economic Cooperation and Development Promotion Association (Myanmar), held a handover ceremony at Yangon Airport to donate five tons of medicine to the disaster-

stricken areas of Myanmar. Representatives from the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, Myanmar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement, the CFPD Myanmar Office and the China-Myanmar Economic Cooperation and Development Association (Myanmar) attended the event.



## Wu Opera “Legend of the White Snake” Debuts in Vienna

The Chinese Opera Season 2025 and International Exhibition of Chinese Opera opened in Vienna, the capital of Austria, on the evening of April 5. As the opening performance of the Season, a traditional Wu Opera (a local opera in Zhejiang Province) scene “the Legend of the White Snake” was performed at the Muth Theatre in Vienna, drawing enthusiastic responses.

Ernst Woller, First President of the Vienna State Parliament and Honourary Chairman of the International Culture Cooperations (ICC), Yang Wenxu, Charge d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy

in Austria, and Elke Hesse, Artistic Director of the Vienna Muth Boys' Choir Concert Hall, delivered speeches at the opening ceremony. The guests spoke highly of the artistic value of Chinese opera and gave full recognition to this cultural exchange event.

Ming Wenjun, President of the China Opera Research Society, officially launched the Season. He said that this Season presents “grand opera pieces” of diverse theatrical styles, conveying the concept of “harmony in diversity” and “each with its own beauty, sharing beauty together” as a key value of







the Chinese culture .

Wu Opera, one of the “living fossils” of traditional Chinese opera, originated in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644AD). It incorporates six traditional Chinese operatic vocal styles and is characterised by its unique performance style, combining both civilian and military elements. The “Legend of the White Snake” is based on a famous Chinese folk tale and tells the bizarre yet moving love story between the snake fairy Bai Suzhen and the scholar Xu Xian.

This Wu Opera piece boasts distinctive artistic features. The martial arts design of Bai Suzhen’s “Stealing the Magical Herb” is smooth and thrilling; Xu Xian’s “Thirteen Falls” technique perfectly captures the panic of a mortal being; and the Green Snake’s sword dance brilliantly blends ancient opera with martial arts, combining both strength and softness. Throughout the performance, the actors and actresses meticulously told the story of Bai Suzhen and Xu Xian, their diverse performances captivating the audience and drawing resounding applause.



Co-hosted by China Opera Research Society and the ICC and organized by the Art Development Centre of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China, this year's Chinese Opera Season event

will bring to the audience performances of eight theatrical styles, including Kunqu Opera, Yue Opera, Qinqiang Opera, Wu Opera, Xi Opera, Yang Opera, Huai Opera and Gui Opera.



## “Dunhuang Cultural Week” Held in Mongolia

On April 3rd, the “Dunhuang Cultural Week—When Dunhuang Meets Ulaanbaatar” Cultural Exhibition opened in Ulaanbaatar. Purevdorj, Vice-Chairman of the State Great Khural of Mongolia, and Shen Minjuan, Chinese Ambassador to Mongolia, attended the opening ceremony and delivered speeches. People from all walks of life in China and Mongolia attended the event.

Purevdorj said that Mongolia and China have a long history of friendly exchanges. In recent years,

cultural exchanges and cooperation between the two countries have continued to deepen. Dunhuang is a unique cultural heritage site. Through this event, we will not only enjoy the charm of Dunhuang in person, but also learn from China’s best practices in preserving cultural heritage through technological innovation.

Shen Minjuan said that the culture of Dunhuang embodies the profoundness, openness and inclusiveness of Chinese civilisation. China has



*Purevdorj, Deputy Chairman of the State Great Khural of Mongolia, delivering a speech*





*Shen Minjuan, Chinese Ambassador to Mongolia, delivering a speech*

put forward the Global Civilisation Initiative which advocates respecting the diversity of world civilisations and valuing the inheritance and innovation of civilisations. We are willing to promote cultural exchanges and mutual learning with Mongolia, so that the China-Mongolia friendship can stay magnificent and eternal like the

Dunhuang murals and move fast like the galloping horses on the grasslands.

Zhao Linyi, Vice-President of the Dunhuang Academy, said that Dunhuang has been a place where diverse cultures converge and blend since ancient times. Today, Dunhuang and Ulaanbaatar meet again. He hopes this event will serve as a



*Attendees cutting the ribbon for the opening ceremony*

starting point for in-depth exchanges between the “Dunhuang experience” and “grassland wisdom”.

The exhibition is organised by the China Centre for International Cultural Exchange and Tourism Promotion, the Ulaanbaatar Chinese Cultural Centre and the Dunhuang Academy, with support

from the Mongolia-China Friendship Association and the Chinggis Khaan National Museum. Lasting from April 4 to 5, it presents representative murals and sculptures of Dunhuang, sets up digital exhibitions and provides opportunities to learn about traditional clothes and paintings.



*Children learning and experiencing Chinese traditional clothes and make-up*



## **“The Youth Table Tennis Programme—Photo Exhibition of Zhou Enlai and the Bandung Conference & China-ASEAN (Indonesia) Youth Table Tennis Training Camp” Opened in Jakarta**

On April 19th, “the Youth Table Tennis Programme—Photo Exhibition of Zhou Enlai and the Bandung Conference & China-ASEAN (Indonesia) Youth Table Tennis Training Camp” opened in Jakarta, Indonesia. The event was guided by the Chinese Embassy in Indonesia and co-organised by the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC), the Memorial to Zhou Enlai and Deng Yingchao, the China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development, the Beijing One Heart Sphere Charity Foundation, and the Enlai Foundation. The exhibition was composed of four thematic sections — “Origin: Pursuing a Shared Dream”, “Setting off: Overcoming All Obstacles to Attend the Bandung Conference”, “Grand Event: Bearing Fruitful Results through Seeking Common Ground while Shelving Differences” and “Inheritance: New Vitality of the Bandung Spirit”, and was open to the public free of charge in Jakarta. On the afternoon of the 19th, guests gathered at the table tennis competition venue to enjoy a thrilling match between 12 young table tennis enthusiasts from the “Zhou Enlai Class” of Sichuan Bachuan Middle School and the Tzu Chi School in Indonesia.





## **“Faxian-Xuanzang Scholarship Fund” Officially Launched in Nepal**

The inaugural “Belt and Road Nepal-China Buddhist Culture and Art Summit Forum” was held at the Lumbini Buddhist University in Nepal. The “Faxian-Xuanzang Scholarship Fund”, jointly established by the Chinese Culture Promotion Society and the

Lumbini Buddhist University, was officially launched during the forum. The programme aims to support 100 Chinese and Nepali students in the next three years in conducting specialised research in such fields as Buddhist art and historical scripts.





## **CANGO Representatives Attended the International Symposium Celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Antonio Meneghetti Foundation**

On April 23rd, China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO) sent representatives to attend the International Symposium on Humanism for the Future: Ontopsychology and Education for the Formation of Responsible and Autonomous Individuals held at the headquarters of UNESCO in Paris, and celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the Antonio Meneghetti Foundation.

As an INGO with special consultative status to UN

ECOSOC, the Antonio Meneghetti Foundation has been dedicated to promoting the integrated development of education, science and technology and human culture. Focusing on the “reformative strength of education”, this symposium invited representatives from the education field, NGOs and youth to jointly discuss upon the key role education plays in shaping the future world. Wang Xiangyi, Vice-President and Secretary General of CANGO was invited to deliver a speech. She said that





CANGO is committed to promoting collaboration of Chinese civil society and supporting global development, and is dedicated to building bridges for exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and overseas NGOs. In November 2024, China and Brazil issued the Joint Statement on Jointly Building the China-Brazil Community with a Shared Future for a More Just World and a More Sustainable Planet. In the statement, the two sides agreed that following the successful series of cultural events celebrating the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between China and Brazil, the year 2026 will be designated as the “China-Brazil Year of Culture” to strengthen the cultural ties, enhance mutual understanding between the two peoples, and, in particular, promote the dissemination of the diverse and creative cultures of the two countries. She congratulated the Antonio Meneghetti Foundation on its 15th anniversary and expressed her hope that CANGO and the Foundation will strengthen their collaboration, leverage the opportunity presented by the UN Climate Change Conference COP 30 in Brazil to jointly promote exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and

Brazilian NGOs and contribute to building a China-Brazil community with a shared future.

At the roundtable sharing session on “Achieving Real Changes through Education”, Project Director Dong Shiyu delivered a speech on the theme of exploring future education from the perspective of Chinese NGOs. He shared China’s active efforts in responding to global education challenges and introduced the practical experience of Chinese NGOs in such fields as climate change education, digital inclusion education, biodiversity conservation education and global youth exchanges. He emphasised that education in the current era is no longer limited to knowledge in the books, but should become an important way to cultivate young people’s sense of global responsibility and promote sustainable development.

Furthermore, during exchanges with Brazil and other Global South countries, different parties discussed upon similar challenges in areas including educational equity, digital transformation, and youth engagement. CANGO expressed its hope to





explore the possibility of practical cooperation in the future in promoting climate storytelling among Chinese and Brazilian youth and jointly developing sustainable development education resources. Through peer exchange and practice, it looked forward to jointly exploring diverse, inclusive, and future-oriented educational paths.

This symposium provided a valuable platform for dialogue and exchanges among NGOs and educators from China, Brazil and more countries in Global South. It also demonstrated the increasingly active participation and practical exploration of Chinese NGOs in global education and sustainable development.





