

INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

国际交流

2

Vol. 2, 2023

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LETTING THE WORLD UNDERSTAND CHINA  
AND LETTING CHINA UNDERSTAND THE WORLD



中国国际交流协会  
CHINESE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

# INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

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**International Standard Serial  
Number:**

**ISSN1002-8285**

**China Standard Serial Number:**

**CN11-2491/D**

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Letters may be edited for length or content.

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## Xi Proposes Global Civilisation Initiative



Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chinese President, attended the opening ceremony of the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting via video link and delivered a keynote address in Beijing, capital of China, March 15, 2023. In his keynote address, Xi proposed the Global Civilisation Initiative.

—We advocate the respect for the diversity

of civilisations. Countries need to uphold the principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness among civilisations, and let cultural exchanges transcend estrangement, mutual learning transcend clashes, and coexistence transcend feelings of superiority.

—We advocate the common values of humanity. Peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom are the common aspirations of all peoples. Countries need

to keep an open mind in appreciating the perceptions of values by different civilisations, and refrain from imposing their own values or models on others and from stoking ideological confrontation.

—We advocate the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilisations. Countries need to fully 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.

—We advocate robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation. Countries need to explore the building of a global network for inter-civilisation dialogue and cooperation, enrich the contents of exchanges and expand avenues of cooperation to promote mutual understanding and friendship among people of all countries and jointly advance the progress of human civilisations.

## **President Xi Jinping's Congratulatory Letter to the Third Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations and the First World Conference of Sinologists**

On the occasion of the opening of the Third Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations and the First World Conference of Sinologists, I would like to express my warm congratulations and sincere welcome to leaders, sinologists and participants from various countries.

In the long course of human history, peoples around the world have created civilisations with unique features and symbols. Equal-footed exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations will provide a strong cultural and ethical guidance for humanity as we strive to meet the challenges of the era to realise common development. China is willing to join all sides to champion humanity's shared values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom, and act on the Global Civilisation Initiative so that cultural exchanges transcend misunderstanding, mutual learning transcend clashes, and coexistence

transcend supremacy for more progress of human civilisation. I wish sinologists from different countries will be envoys of cultural integration and make more earnest efforts to promote exchanges between the Chinese civilisation with other civilisations towards greater mutual understanding and friendship.

I wish this event a great success!

Xi Jinping  
General Secretary  
Central Committee  
Communist Party of China and  
President  
People's Republic of China

3 July 2023

## Remarks of Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng at the Third Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations and the First World Conference of Sinologists



Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Friends,

I'm delighted to join representatives of various countries in Beijing for the Third Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations and the First World Conference of Sinologists. President Xi Jinping highly values exchanges and mutual understanding among

civilisations. At the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-level Meeting on March 15 this year, President Xi put forward the Global Civilisation Initiative (GCI), advocating the respect for the diversity of civilisations, the common values of humanity, the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilisations, and robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation. The GCI reveals the laws governing exchanges and development of civilisations and points



out new cooperation prospects. As another important public good from China in the new era to the international community after the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, it represents the sincere wish of the Chinese side to promote the advancement of human civilisation and the building of a human community with a shared future. We should act on the three global initiatives to boost cultural exchanges and mutual learning for closer people-to-people and cultural connectivity. I'd like to share with you the following:

We should respect the diversity of civilisations for harmonious coexistence of civilisations. President Xi Jinping noted that as all countries are closely connected with a shared future, tolerance, coexistence, exchanges and mutual learning among different civilisations play an irreplaceable role in advancing humanity's modernisation process and making the garden of world civilisations flourish. Different civilisations have different features. No one is superior to others. Recognising and respecting the diversity of civilisations is the foundation for exchanges and mutual learning. It is important to uphold the equality, mutual learning, dialogue, inclusiveness of civilisations, respect the unique features and rationale of each civilisation to promote mutual learning and understanding among civilisations.

We should explore the commonality of human civilisations and champion common values. Peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom are humanity's shared values. They represent the broadest common values of

different civilisations and respond to the shared aspirations of all peoples. It is important to uphold humanity's shared values, jointly pursue peaceful development, and understand other culture's understanding of values, instead of imposing one's own value and model upon others. We should oppose hegemony, unilateralism and power politics.

We should uphold cultural innovation so that human civilisations will develop while carrying forward its heritage. For any civilisation to progress with the times, it needs to draw on the achievement of the times. The Chinese civilisation has the enterprising spirit of keeping to the principles but not the old fashion, respecting the ancient and not restoring the past. Not afraid of new challenges, we dare to embrace new changes. This reflects the dialectical unity of flexibility and consistence, inheritance and development, principle and innovation. It is important to value cultural inheritance and innovation, respect people's creation and fully unleash the value of history and culture of all countries for this era to promote the creative transformation and innovative development of civilisations.

We should promote cultural inclusiveness, and steer the multi-lateral development of civilisations. Inclusiveness and mutual learning among civilisations is a major task towards achieving world peace and development and a better livelihood. To that end, it is important for us to step up international cultural exchanges and cooperation and explore to build a global civilisation dialogue and cooperation network to enrich and expand



our exchanges so as to deepen the mutual understanding and trust among peoples for an open and inclusive world.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Friends,

The Chinese nation, a great and ancient people, has a civilisation of over 5000 years. It is the only uninterrupted civilisation in the world, with unique and profound values and cultural system. Continuity, innovation, unity, inclusiveness and peace-loving are hallmarks of the Chinese nation. Now the Chinese people, under the leadership of the CPC, are working in unity to promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation through Chinese modernisation. Chinese modernisation, deeply rooted in the Chinese culture, has added modern elements to the Chinese civilisation. Chinese modernisation has enriched and developed a new type of human advancement, expanded the options for other developing countries to realise modernisation and blazed a new path of civilisation advancement featuring mutual respect, mutual support and harmonious coexistence. Thus it provides new opportunities for cultural inclusiveness and mutual learning.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the vision of a human community with a shared future and the Belt and Road Initiative. Over the past decade, guided by the vision of building a human community with a shared future, China has championed multilateralism, solidarity, cooperation, and mutual development. The

blueprint has been turned into reality. A new road of civilisation exchanges and mutual learning have been blazed. Along this road China will continue to add momentum to global development and prosperity through its own development and jointly pursue modernisation with all other countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Friends,

Humans are the best practitioners of exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations. Over the years, sinologist and representatives of different circles present here today have contributed to the integration of Chinese and other civilisations, and communicating Chinese ideas. You are making contributions to the promotion of cultural exchanges. Taking this opportunity, I'd like to express heartfelt gratitude to friends who have been committed to strengthening cultural mutual trust. I hope you will continue to contribute wisdom and strength to tell good stories of the new type of human progress, strengthen international cultural exchanges and cooperation and promote the quality development of Sinology under the guidance of the GCI.

To conclude, I wish the Third Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations and the First World Conference of Sinologists a complete success. May all our guests enjoy good health and a pleasant stay!

Thank you!

## Remarks of CAFIU President Ji Bingxuan at the Opening Ceremony of the Third Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations and the First World Conference of Sinologists



Your Excellency Vice-President Han Zheng,  
Your Excellency Simplicie Mathieu Sarandji,  
Your Excellency Alice Lau Kiong Yieng,  
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,  
Friends,  
Good Afternoon!

Today, representatives from around the world gather in Beijing to celebrate the Third Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations and the First World Conference of

Sinologists. First of all, on behalf of the host of this event, the Chinese Association for International Understanding, please allow me to express our warm welcome and heartfelt thanks to all our friends and guests who attend this event, continue our traditional friendship and aspires for a harmonious and beautiful world!

General Secretary Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the Dialogue, fully displaying the importance the CPC and Chinese government

attach to implementing the Global Civilisation Initiative and building a community with a shared future for mankind. The keynote speech of Vice-President Han Zheng thoroughly illustrated the meaning of Chinese modernisation for this era and provides significant guide for us to further build consensus on exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations and promote the development and progress of human civilisation.

On the new journey towards building a comprehensively socialist modernised country, Chinese modernisation created a new form of human civilisation. At this critical moment on the modernisation process of human society, we stand ready to enhance cooperation, exchanges and mutual learning with the international community, in a bid to make greater contribution to enriching the blooming garden of world civilisations, advancing the cause of peace and development of mankind and promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

**We will be advocators that adhere to civilisation equality and respect civilisation diversity.** We should understand the essence of different civilisations and fully respect the diversity and differences among civilisations. We should uphold equal treatment, put aside arrogance and prejudice and promote the exchanges, infusion and mutual learning among civilisations, so as to provide right spiritual guidance and strong spiritual driving forces for the development of human society.

**We will be disseminators that honour common aspirations and champion the common values of humanity.** We should abandon ideological

prejudice, enhance to the largest extent the openness and inclusiveness of cooperative mechanism, philosophy and policy for tackling global challenges. We should reflect the common values of humanity in assuring the interests of the people in a practical and tangible manner, pursue “a world of universal harmony” with “harmony in diversity”, fuelling the flames of the noble cause of human civilisation advancement.

**We will be explorers that bravely bring forth the new through the old and value civilisation inheritance and innovation.** We should shoulder the responsibility of continuing and developing human civilisation, strengthen exchanges, dialogue and mutual learning. We should keep pace with the times, constantly absorb the quintessence of our era and let fine traditional culture shine with overwhelming glamour and vibrance that surpasses time, space and borders, thus contributing wisdom and strength of a new era to solving the common challenges facing human civilisation.

**We will be the practitioners that promote amity among peoples and strengthen international people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation.** We should actively build platforms for exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations and join hands with fellow sinologists and people of all walks of life to build a global network for inter-civilisation dialogue and cooperation. We should extensively carry out activities of international people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation and constantly enrich and expand its content, pattern, field, channel and mechanism,

benefiting people of different countries with the fruitful results of exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends!

In over 40 years since its founding, CAFIU resolutely adheres to the principle of “letting the world understand China, and letting China understand the world” and the vision on civilisation featuring equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness. CAFIU dedicates to building the Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations into a high-end platform for people from around the world to display wonderful civilisations, promote dialogue and

cooperation and pursue common development. As an ancient Chinese saying goes, the best virtue is like water's, which benefits everything in the world but never contends its own contribution. Civilisation seems “weak”, but the trend of mutual learning among civilisations is unstoppable, and its power of penetrating into people’s heart quietly is bound to be strong. CAFIU is ready to stand shoulder by shoulder with people all over the world to promote the implementation of the Global Civilisation Initiative, let diverse culture co-exist and move forward together and write a more exciting chapter of civilisation for the mankind!

Thank you all!

## Implement the Global Civilisation Initiative, Jointly Promote Human Civilisation Development

*President Xi Jinping's Congratulatory Letter to the Third Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations and the First World Conference of Sinologists Prevails among Attendees*

*Reporter: Qu Pei, Che Bin, Bao Han*

On July 3, Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and President of PRC, sent a congratulatory letter to the Third Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations and the First World Conference of Sinologists, which soon prevails among attendees. They thought the letter of President Xi Jinping fully displays the importance the CPC and Chinese government attaches to exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations. In such an era when the countries around the world are closely connected by a shared future, the inclusiveness, coexistence and mutual learning among civilisations will support us to jointly tackle challenges and achieve prosperity and development.

### **Carry out exchanges and dialogue and draw the blueprint of mutual learning among civilisations**

President Xi Jinping pointed out that in the long

journey of human history, nations across the world created civilisations with distinctive features and symbols. The equal exchanges and mutual learning among these civilisations will provide strong spiritual guidance for mankind to solve difficulties of the times and achieve common development.

A single flower does not make spring, while one hundred flowers in full blossom bring spring to the garden. Civilisations thrive in exchanges and grow in mutual learning. Tobias Biancone, Director General of the International Theatre Institute, listened carefully to the content of President Xi Jinping's congratulatory letter. He said that the illustration of President Xi Jinping was profound and wise. Each civilisation has its own value of existence and there was no superiority among them. Tracing back the history, civilisations are always moving forward in mutual learning. "The ancient Silk Road is a perfect example. The business activities along the ancient Silk Road led the development of

cultural exchanges. Today, people in the West drink tea with porcelain cups from China. It's the cultural diversity that allows people to enjoy more colourful lifestyles, hence the wonderful cultural stories.

Catherine Mbengue, Swiss legal expert and senior international review of Basic Right, said that civilisations in the world shine together and exchanges and mutual learning play a significant role in promoting the advancement of human civilisation. "Differentiation is not a reason to separate civilisations and hinder exchanges, but a fertile soil to enrich human civilisation and promote mutual understanding."

During his stay in China, David Edwards-May, Former President of Inland Waterways International, deeply felt the sincerity and hospitality of Chinese people. In his eyes, "the best carrier of exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations is man. China build up bridges of people-to-people and cultural exchanges with an ever open manner, laying a solid foundation for exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations."

Aly El Hefny, Vice-President of Egypt-China Friendship Association, Former Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt and Former Ambassador to China, believe that countries in the world share the same goal of promoting civilisation development. "Human civilisation shines for its diversity and the meaning of civilisation exchanges lies in sharing. We need to learn to embrace civilisation diversity, respect different customs and religions and jointly promote the development of human civilisation."

Bojana Pavlović, a sinologist from Bosnia and Herzegovina, earned her PhD in Nanjing Normal University and helped establish the first college of sinology in Bosnia and Herzegovina after she went back. She witnessed the development of sinology in her country in over 10 years. She said, "After listening to the congratulatory letter of President Xi Jinping, I felt the same way that exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations have profound meaning for individuals, universities and countries. Hope to see more civilisations around the world make a brilliant appearance on the platform of civilisation exchanges."

### **Build consensus and champion the common aspirations of all peoples**

President Xi Jinping emphasises in his congratulatory letter that China is ready to work with all parties to champion the common aspirations of all peoples featuring peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, implement the Global Civilisation Initiative, let cultural exchanges transcend estrangement, mutual learning transcend clashes, and coexistence transcend feelings of superiority, making concerted efforts to promote human civilisation advancement.

Saritas Eyup, Professor of Istanbul University, told People's Daily the fact that President Xi Jinping laid emphasis on the common aspirations of all peoples symbolises China's philosophy of advancing exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations and pursuing common prosperity as a country with an ancient civilisation, and points direction for the future work of sinologists. "As

envoys of cultural communication, sinologists should make more studies and illustration work of China's initiatives and philosophies and promote mutual learning among civilisations.”

Danny Haiphong, Editor-in-chief of Black Agenda in the US, Co-editor of “Friends of Socialist China”, thinks that civilisations pursue heritage and development in exchanges and mutual learning, advocate the common aspirations of all peoples and safeguard common interests of mankind should become consensus of all countries with no outside influence, no conditions attached and no values forced to accept by any country or nation.

The common aspirations of all peoples represent the common ground of the values of different civilisations and respond to shared expectations and appeals of peoples. Ahmed Ghoneim, Managing Executive Director of the Authority of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation, said that as countries with ancient civilisations, China and Egypt have different civilisational inheritance, yet share the same values. To advocate the common aspirations of all peoples is to realise our own development and then use the achievements of development to constantly enrich the connotation of the common aspirations of all peoples.

In the eyes of Harish Shah, President of Nepal China Cultural and Educational Council, China's achievements of peace and development benefit the entire world. “In this era of interdependence and shared future, China establishes this platform of exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations and delivers the message

of safeguarding peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom. I hope delegates from different countries can enhance mutual understanding and form consensus on this platform and join hands to promote the development of human civilisation.”

Mohamed Rasheed, Chairman of China Maldives Cultural Association, has been a friend of China for over half a century. President Xi Jinping's words to sinologists constitute a great inspiration for him. He told the reporter, “in the past, publications were mostly dominated by countries in the West and learning Chinese language opened a window for me. Maldives is a developing country. We wish for peace and development and opportunities of open and free dialogues without prejudices.”

### **Hold hands and promote world peace and development**

Participants of the Dialogue expressed their willing to support the important global initiatives put forward by President Xi Jinping. They believe Chinese modernisation strongly promotes world peace and development and are willing to contribute to exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations and development of mankind.

“I call for all of us to pay our tribute to the ideas of President Xi Jinping mentioned in his congratulatory letter”, said Simplicie Mathieu Sarandji, National Executive Secretary of the United Hearts Movement (MCU) & President of the National Assembly of the Central African Republic. He also said, as the leader of a country with a civilisation history of over 5000 years, President Xi



Jinping always bears the world in his mind and puts forward the Global Civilisation Initiative, extending the sincere wish of the CPC to world with world political parties to promote modernisation with our own characteristics, enhance global exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. This displays the political courage and responsibility of the CPC to stand up to the common challenges faced by mankind and provides China's solution to advancing globalisation and promoting human civilisation progress.

In her speech, Alice Lau Kiong Yieng, Member of the Central Executive Committee of the Democratic Action Party & Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives for Parliament of Malaysia, said that as an accompanier of promoting civilisation communication, she was very honoured to know that President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the Dialogue and emphasised on the significance of exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations. "This March, President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Civilisation Initiative. This visionary initiative promotes civilisation progress and shows the strength of diversity and solidarity and lights up our path towards mutual understanding and respect."

"The colourful human civilisation is the fundamental feature of the world and the endless driving force of human progress. The history of human development is also a history of diversified cultures coexist peacefully and move forward hand

in hand", said Bertie Ahern, Former Prime Minister of Ireland and Co-Chair of the InterAction Council. He believes that the Global Civilisation Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping provides China's solution to promoting the development of the world and mankind.

"The planet we live on is large enough for us to coexist in peace", José Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, Former Prime Minister of Spain, said in his speech. "We should listen to people who are born in another place, speak another language and think in another way. We should embrace different realities. For that, the Global Civilisation Initiative has profound meaning."

"The Global Civilisation Initiative helps promote the advancement of human civilisation", said Colin Mackerras, Emeritus Professor of Griffith University, and Academician of the Australia Commonwealth Humanities Institute. He holds the idea that in the congratulatory letter, President Xi Jinping emphasised the implementation of the Global Civilisation Initiative, which advocates the respect for the diversity of civilisations, the common values of humanity, the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilisations and robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation. These advocates appear to be more valuable in such an era when we are in urgent need to cooperate with each other to tackle global challenges.

## Global Civilisation Initiative Boosts Human Advancement

The Global Civilisation Initiative, proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, will inject fresh and strong energy into the common development and progress of human society in a world fraught with multiple challenges and crises.

Elaborating on the new initiative at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting, Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, called for respecting the diversity of civilisations, advocating the common values of humanity, valuing the inheritance and innovation of civilisations, and strengthening international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

The initiative is another major public product provided to the world by China after the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, both put forward by Xi, in 2021 and 2022, respectively.

In the history of humanity, over thousands of years, various civilisations have come into being, developed, and have in return promoted the overall development of human society. Diversity has been a prominent feature of civilisations.

In spite of differences in histories, cultures, political systems and development phases, countries around the world share the common aspiration for peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom-- the common values of humanity.

People need to keep an open mind in appreciating how different civilisations perceive values, and refrain from imposing their own values or models on others, and from stoking ideological confrontation.

As the world is facing old and new challenges, there are more reasons for us to promote dialogue and consultation when addressing international issues, and to let cultural exchanges transcend estrangement, mutual learning transcend clashes, and coexistence transcend feelings of superiority.

Spanning thousands of miles, the ancient Silk Road has embodied the spirit of cooperation, mutual learning and mutual benefit. The year 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of China's proposal of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), another public good which has brought tangible benefits to people of participating countries and promoted people-to-people exchanges.

The diversity of civilisations is in nature a source of vitality and momentum in human development. Promoting people-to-people exchanges and mutual learning is of great value in summoning the enormous wisdom and energy needed to advance the progress and development of human civilisations.

The BRI has delivered fruitful outcomes and won widespread support and participation. It has created jobs, improved infrastructure and promoted common development, especially in developing countries.

Security is the precondition for development. The Global Security Initiative calls for peacefully resolving differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation, and supporting all efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of crises.

The recent Saudi Arabia-Iran dialogue in Beijing is a successful case of the practice of the Global Security Initiative, leading to the resumption of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

The future of all countries are closely and increasingly connected. And tolerance, coexistence, exchanges and mutual learning among different civilisations play an irreplaceable role in advancing humanity's modernization process.

To realize a world with lasting peace and ever-improving welfare, we should embrace the Global Civilisation Initiative and draw on it to jointly create a better, shared future for humanity.

A single flower does not make spring, while one hundred flowers in full blossom bring spring to the garden. Together, we can make the garden of world civilisations full of colors and life.

## **Global Civilisation Initiative Outlines the Way to Transcend Estrangement, Clashes and Superiority**

The modernisation of humanity should be like a garden where a hundred flowers bloom. This is what President Xi Jinping said in his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Communist Party of China in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-level Meeting via video link.

Xi was referring to the way each country chooses to advance its own modernisation. Each country needs not only to follow the general laws governing the process of modernisation, but also to take the path that best suits its own national conditions and unique features.

It is the people of a country that are in the best position to say what modernisation path best suits them, as modernisation "does not fall into our laps automatically".

Saying that modernisation cannot be realised by "a cookie cutter approach or simple copy and paste", Xi put forward a Global Civilisation Initiative that promotes tolerance, coexistence, exchanges and mutual learning for the development of a community with a shared future for humanity.

Following the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, this is the third initiative China has put forward for global governance.

The latest initiative calls for respect for the diversity of civilisations, advocating the common values of humanity, highly valuing the inheritance and innovation of civilisations, and jointly promoting robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

Countries, big or small, strong or weak, should respect the diversity of cultures. Each country has its unique culture, which is the foundation on which its own approach to modernisation should be based. Only by respecting the diversity of civilisations will the world have a sound base on which to build lasting peace for the entire world.

And only by respecting the diversity of civilisations will it be possible for exchanges to be conducted among different cultures on an equal basis. It is mandatory for people from different cultures to conduct exchanges in order to constantly update and expand the common values of humanity.

Respecting the diversity of civilisations entails the necessity that no country, no matter how strong it is militarily or economically, should impose its own values or its own ideology onto other countries. Only in this way will it be possible for all countries to strive in unity for lasting global peace.

Yet, at the same time, for each country and each culture, carrying on its own traditional culture does not mean isolation from other cultures as traditional cultures need to be updated with new content to keep abreast of the times. Exchanges

between different cultures are necessary to do that.

The Global Civilisation Initiative is meant to motivate political parties and organisations all over the world to do their bit in promoting interactions among themselves, and thereafter promoting cultural exchanges between different civilisations. In this way, they will be able to contribute to the promotion of world peace and the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.



## Global Civilisation Initiative Proposed by Xi Provides Hope to Heal the World in Turbulence

Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chinese President, proposed the Global Civilisation Initiative. Experts said following the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, China is trying to share its wisdom and plans to bring new hope for all nations to consider together on how to escape the trap of the "Clash of Civilisations" and find a path that can help the world sail through the current turbulence.

Xi proposed the initiative during his key note speech at the opening ceremony of the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting via video link and delivered a keynote address.

Under the initiative, Xi called for respect for diversity of civilisations, advocating the common values of humanity, highly valuing the inheritance and innovation of civilisations, and jointly advocating robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

"We are ready to work together with the international community to open up a new prospect of enhanced exchanges and

understanding among different peoples and better interactions and integration of diversified cultures. Together we can make the garden of world civilisations colorful and vibrant," Xi said.

### World needs hope

According to a Xinhua News Agency story on Thursday, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, also President of the African National Congress, and 11 other leaders of political parties and political organisations also addressed the dialogue on Wednesday.

They spoke highly of Xi's proposals in his keynote speech, and expressed their willingness to work with the CPC to play a leading and driving role in the modernisation process.

"We fully agree with the four proposals put forward by Chinese President Xi in the Global Civilisation Initiative," Ramaphosa said, noting the initiative is vital to the world today.

The event, with the theme "Path towards Modernisation: the Responsibility of Political Parties," brought together more than 500 leaders of political parties and political organisations from

more than 150 countries.

Li Haidong, a professor at China Foreign Affairs University, told the Global Times on Thursday that the Global Civilisation Initiative will help the world get rid of the old mentality for relations between different civilisations, and create a new landscape for the world which allows all countries to deal with each other based on stability, mutual respect and equality.

Experts said a very fundamental reason why the world at present is experiencing great turbulence is that the old international order dominated by the US-led West is making the world fall into the trap of "Clash of Civilisations," with many countries with different civilisations having a hard time to deal with each other peacefully.

Li said that within the US, people from different ethnic groups and with different religious beliefs are having more tensions rather than becoming more united. For the foreign affairs, during the time of the Trump administration, US senior officials openly hyped "Clash of Civilisations" and currently Washington is still having tensions with many countries with different civilisations, and even instigating conflicts between the countries in the same region with similar civilisation.

At present, the old system and order dominated by the US-led West is causing huge problems and dangers to the world in the fields like geopolitics, supply and industrial chains, as well as the financial markets.

The Ukraine crisis is still far from easing, and

the energy and foods crises are troubling many countries worldwide. At present, the new danger of a potential global financial crisis brought along by the collapse of US-based Silicon Valley Bank and the problem of Credit Suisse in Europe has made the world more unstable.

Liu Dian, an associate research fellow of the China Institute under Fudan University, told the Global Times on Thursday that in recent years, the world has been facing rising challenges and uncertainties.

"It's just about 15 years away from the financial crisis in 2008, the world is once again under the shadow of another crisis caused by the US," Liu noted. "The world is getting increasingly worried about the old system and getting more desperate to ask for new solution."

### **Contribute with action**

From the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative to the latest Global Civilisation Initiative, China has presented the world with an ideological system that gets increasingly mature. Adding to the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the ideal of the global community of shared future, China is trying to use its own wisdom, experiences and influence based on its own successful development and exploration in the past decades to help the world improve and reform the old problematic international system and order, experts said.

Liu said that the series of initiatives proposed by the top leader of the CPC and China are answering the questions for the world and our time. The



combination of these three initiatives shows China's comprehensive thoughts that aim to solve global problems and improve global governance.

China is not just proposing the initiatives, but also making contribution through actions, and gain concrete achievements, analysts said. For instance, the successful mediation that lead to the resumption of diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and the BRI that links countries with different civilisations to jointly realise development.

The vast majority of the international community welcomes and praises the latest reestablishment of Riyadh-Teheran diplomatic ties with China's support and assistance. This shows that the world in turbulence and regions in chaos desperately need new hope and new solution for peace and stability. China is actively utilising its influence and wisdom to solve global challenges. As a result, more and more countries will be open to and carefully consider and research China's initiatives, Liu said.



## Initiative on Global Civilisation Praised

### **President's proposal critical for pursuit of peace, development, experts say**

The Global Civilisation Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping is regarded as not only highly relevant in this world fraught with challenges and uncertainties, but also critical for the pursuit of common peace and development, according to Asia-Pacific experts.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, proposed the GCI at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting via video link, calling for all civilisations to thrive on diversified paths toward modernization.

The GCI advocates respect for the diversity of civilisations, common values of humanity, the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilisations, international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation. "Together we can make the garden of world civilisations colorful and vibrant," Xi told representatives of more than 500 political parties and organizations from more than 150 countries.

Swaran Singh, a professor of diplomacy and

disarmament at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India, said that increasing connectedness and interdependence in our current world has resulted in increased exposure to and contestations among varying traditions and visions germinating negative imaginations, mutual threat perceptions and proclivities to deter and even destroy one's imagined adversaries.

"This makes propositions like President Xi's Global Civilisation Initiative not just timely but also a most agreeable recipe for synergizing humanity's pursuit for peace and prosperity," he said.

He noted President Xi's address to the first Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilisations in 2019, the Global Development Initiative, or GDI, raised in 2021 and the Global Security Initiative, or GSI, proposed last year.

### **Fresh momentum**

Along with GDI and GSI, the enunciation of GCI is expected to ignite discussions on "how a civilisational state could contribute to making of a peaceful world order" as countries have

been repeatedly pushed toward destructive war fighting, said Singh, who is also a visiting professor at the University of British Columbia in Canada.

Salman Bashir, a former Pakistani ambassador to China, commends the GCI. "The GCI is particularly relevant in today's world where divisions and differences are drawing lines of distinction, creating uncertainty and prejudice," he said, adding: "President Xi said it all that all civilisations are excellent."

Lawrence Loh, director of the Centre for Governance and Sustainability, at the National University of Singapore, said the proposal for the GCI by Xi is most timely and critical.

"Precisely because of the deepening divides in the world along geopolitical and economic fault lines, countries need to urgently bridge their gaps," he said. "The initiative will be a purpose-driven multilateral platform where countries can come together to forge a common future for a better world."

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, chief executive of the Asian Institute of Eco-civilisation Research and Development, in Islamabad, Pakistan, praised the GSI, saying that it can help the dream of

sustainable security and peace to be pursued. The GCI will also help to counter the notion of the clash of civilisations, and promote the peaceful coexistence of civilisations.

He said that, if we want to live in peace, we must respect diversity, the diversity in terms of values, culture, religion, governance systems and democracy.

"We must believe in mutual respect, equality and dignity of each and every human and nation," Ramay said. "For that purpose, we must promote open-minded dialogue, dialogue without any prejudice or self-assumed greatness."

Munshi Faiz Ahmad, a former Bangladesh ambassador to China and a former chairman of the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies, said President Xi's GCI very closely matches Bangladesh's idea that centers on friendship and peace and how to exclude all kinds of enmity, confrontation and conflict, and pursue cooperation, equality, common progress and development. "I think in Bangladesh we all welcome President Xi's ideas," he noted.

**[Editor's Note]** Sinologists all over the world have spoken highly of the Global Civilisation Initiative since it was proposed by President Xi Jinping. They expressed their readiness to contribute wisdom and strength to the implementation of the Initiative. This article is composed of interview excerpts of 16 sinologists from 14 countries.

## Views on Global Civilisation Initiative by Sinologists

**Question:** *Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Civilisation Initiative on March 15. How do you evaluate its significance to the development of developing countries?*

**Boldbaatar Dorjsuren** from Mongolia: In my opinion, the most valuable part of the Global Civilisation Initiative is its contribution to the political stability of all the countries. Mongolia is a developing country of huge potential with essential prerequisite to modernisation, but in lack of theoretical guidance. Recently, the book *Xi Jinping: Wit and Vision* translated by me was published in Mongolia. The first 1000 books were sold out upon its publication,

which reflects people's urgent need to read this book. The key reason of its popularity is that President Xi Jinping shared his experience on the governance of China in the book without reservation. I believe that under the guidance of the Global Civilisation Initiative, developing countries will pave their way to modernisation and realise common development and advancement.

**Question:** *In your opinion, what is the significance of the proposal of the Global Civilisation Initiative at this time? As a sinologist and expert in translation, what role will you play in it?*

**Nahed Abdulla Ebrahim** from Egypt :  
The Global Civilisation Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping emphasised the significance of the diversity of civilisations. China has made tremendous contribution to the development of world peace and development. As President Xi put forth in the Global Civilisation Initiative, such principles as diversity, equality, inclusiveness, justice, democracy ensure the development and prosperity for civilisations of all countries and contribute to the development and progress of human civilisations. The Global Civilisation Initiative is unanimously endorsed and supported by Arab states. Thanks to

the mediation of China, Saudi Arabia and Iran resumed diplomatic ties. The Arabian people have high expectations to the Global Civilisation Initiative.

As a sinologist and translator, I believe that the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilisation Initiative have provided broad prospect and rich content for research and mutual learning, which are worthy of further research and study. The mutual learning among and translation of literal works from different civilisations will play a significant role in enriching global civilisation and promote cultural diversity.

**Question:** *On March 15, President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Civilisation Initiative and saying that we advocate the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilisations. Countries need to fully harness the relevance of their histories and cultures to present and push for creative transformation and innovative development of their fine traditional cultures. In what way do you think sinologists play their distinctive role in this regard?*

**Mohamed Elshikh** from Egypt: As an Egyptian sinologist, I believe that the exchanges and mutual learning between Chinese and Egyptian civilisations are dialogues between two major ancient civilisations, which reflects the high-

level development of the comprehensive strategic partnership between Egypt and China. In this Initiative, President Xi calls on all countries to advocate the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilisations, and

fully harness the relevance of their histories and cultures to present and push for creative transformation and innovative development of their fine traditional cultures. It fully coincides with the current cultural interaction between China and Egypt. It is a great initiative that conforms to the cultural connectivity of the two countries, to which Egyptian sinologists shall respond actively. We shall strive to expand fields for research and space for cooperation at such levels as the spread of historical and cultural concepts, mutual learning on classic cultural achievements, interdisciplinary study on contemporary culture and media communication based on the development trend of each civilisation and the current foundation of sinology in Cairo.

**Zahiri Mahmoud** from Iran: The Global Civilisation Initiative put forth by President Xi Jinping is of great significance to today's world. The Chinese culture full of vitality and inclusiveness has distinctive significance to facilitate the people-to-people connectivity all over the world. To quote the great Persian poet Saadi Shirazi, the sons of Adam are limbs of each other, having been created of one essence. Sinologist all over the world are fulfilling their role as bridges to help people understand and trust each other, and enable them to understand that there are more common grounds than differences among all the nations, that it is wise to embrace love and benevolence while it's fool to turn to hatred and discrimination.

**Question:** *What kind of unique role can sinologists play in the implementation of the Global Civilisation Initiative?*

**Anna Pecheva** from Bulgaria: Sinologists are the bridges for cultural communication and damper for clashes among civilisations. From this perspective, sinologists are the practitioners and promoters of the Global Civilisation Initiative. Modernisation is a global adventure in which each civilisation will encounter its own problem and experience similar crisis. The alienation of humanity in the era of science and technology and the alienation of civilisation have put us in front of the crises such as loss of

tradition, cultural estrange and the aggravation of conflicts. In this regard, humanity is a community with a shared future which the Global Civilisation Initiative has once again reminded us of its necessity. Sinologists repair the cracks of our civilisation with their academic study as the needle and the Global Civilisation Initiative as their thread, thus embroidering the spiritual emblem of the community with a shared future with that needle and thread.

**Question:** *President Xi Jinping pointed out in his remarks that “Developing countries have the right and ability to independently explore the modernisation path with their distinctive features based on their national realities. We must develop our country and our nation with our own strength, and we must maintain a firm grasp on the future of our country's development and progress. We should respect and support the development paths independently chosen by different peoples to jointly usher in a new prospect for humanity's modernisation that is like a garden where a hundred flowers bloom.” As a sinologist from a developing country, how do you interpret these remarks? And what kind of guidance can these remarks provide for developing countries?*

**Baatarkhuu Kh.** from Mongolia: As a sinologist from Mongolia, also a developing country, I strongly agree with this confident, firm and solid opinion. The rise of China and the unswerving and independent exploration of modernisation path by the Chinese people are inseparable. Without firmly grasp of our own destination, developing countries will not have the solidarity and public support to explore the modernisation path with our own distinct features. Without respect to the independent choice of development path by people from other countries, we will not have the diversified civilisation and culture patterns to build up the ability to guard against risks on the journey of human society towards modernisation. This is not only successful Chinese experience, but also extraordinary Chinese foresight generously shared with developing countries as undoubtedly a very precious Chinese gift.

Mongolia is also faced with many challenges on our path to modernisation, such as weak industrial base because of historical reasons, prominent regional differences in urbanisation and loss of a traditional culture. We also suffered from missing out good opportunities due to external influence. However, I firmly believe that the above-mentioned remarks of President Xi Jinping, both rational and touching, are just like inspiring declarations, which encourage Mongolia and fellow developing countries to rely on the basic strength of each country and nation to grasp our own destiny, release development potential and steadfastly explore the modernisation path that suits our national realities.

**Bojana Pavlović** from Bosnia and Herzegovina: "Colonisation" has a very prominent influence in the process of global modernisation. Its most incurable sequela is West centralism. This



stubborn perception originates from the over-pursuit of instrument rationality and extreme individualism and in the meantime strengthens these orientations. This makes the alienation of the Westerners spread across the world in a more hyper pressure manner, and once again act back on the West and cause mental panic. For example, when China successfully explored and marched forward on its path to modernisation, many countries with strong West centralism intuitively felt threatened and could not believe this peace-loving country with no record of colonising other countries would avoid repeating their history. To “empower” them is nothing easy, but the Global Civilisation Initiative, especially the “Chinese gift” of respecting the diversity of world civilisations and championing common values for mankind, will surely pool the strengths of people around the world who agree on the reasonable

and rational aspiration, gradually rectify the deviation of West centralism, and directly act on the alienation phenomenon of extreme instrument rationality and individualism suffered by human society in the process of modernisation. The ancient Chinese wisdom of “harmony without uniformity” and “helping others develop themselves before one develops oneself” leads to coexistence, cooperation and common prosperity, always signals the danger of human alienation of “material to material”, thus protecting the possibility of the freedom and all-round development of mankind. It is this ancient wisdom that guides the initiation and development of Chinese modernisation. Chinese modernisation that doesn’t follow the colonisation path of the West provides an ideal model for the new pattern of human civilisation.

**Question:** *What do you think is the significance of putting forward the Global Civilisation Initiative?*

**Colin Mackerras** from Australia: The proposal of the Global Civilisation Initiative is very important. It helps foster the mutual understanding and cultural exchanges among countries, and promote peace and harmony. The Global Civilisation Initiative advocates

the coexistence and mutual learning among civilisations, which matches the idea of “harmony without uniformity” in traditional Chinese culture and also serves as China’s contribution to the world.

**Question:** *What can China and international organisations do to implement the Global Civilisation Initiative?*

**Colin Mackerras** from Australia: China can strengthen its own cultural soft power building and show the world its cultural charisma and values. In the meantime, China can also enhance cultural exchanges with other countries for the promotion of mutual learning and understanding among civilisations. In

terms of international organisations, UN and other international organisations should play a bigger role in facilitating cultural exchanges and cooperation among countries and motivating all countries to make concerted efforts to implement the Global Civilisation Initiative.

**Question:** *What do you think sinologists should do to implement the Global Civilisation Initiative?*

**Colin Mackerras** from Australia: Sinologists should carry out in-depth study of the Chinese culture and history and show the world the true features of Chinese culture to allow more people learn about and understand China.

Besides, sinologists also needs to follow the cultural exchanges between China and other countries so as to boost mutual learning and understanding among civilisations.

**Question:** *How do you understand the Global Civilisation Initiative? And how does it inspire the cultural development of Singapore?*

**Chong Ja Ian** from Singapore: The signal that China is trying to send is that actually the world does not depend on the United States or its allies and partners. China is trying to become an all-round global participant and prove that it is also capable of providing public goods. The fact that China is actively strengthening

Chinese culture may be quite appealing for Singaporeans who are tracing the root of their culture and nation. China has been strongly promoting the preservation of its cultural heritages. Singaporean people should cherish, respect and deeply understand the Chinese civilisation.

**Question:** *What do you think is the significance of the Global Civilisation Initiative? And what role should young scholars like you play?*

**Hend Khalki** from Tunisia: The Global Civilisation Initiative focuses on enhancing mutual learning among civilisations and promoting the progress of mankind, injecting strong positive energy into the process of human modernisation and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. As a young sinologist from Tunisia, I hope that I could enhance dialogues and exchanges between Chinese and Tunisian cultures through Chinese-to-Arabic and Arabic-to-Chinese translation of cultural and linguistic classics and sinology studies. Since ancient times, Tunisian people have valued the cultural

exchanges with the Chinese people. I hope that I will have the opportunity to serve as a loyal cultural envoy to further promote exchanges between the two cultures and provide more opportunities for dialogues between the two civilisations.

I believe that building a community with a shared future for mankind is a very tough mission. But I believe even more that with the cultural solidarity spirit of both Chinese and Arab sides and our unwavering resolve, we will surely overcome all difficulties.

**Question:** *What is the significance of putting forward the Global Civilisation Initiative at this time?*

**Ambassador Ragnar Baldursson** from Iceland: Civilisation and culture are in a process of changes and development, just like Taoism in Chinese philosophy. In the ever running river of history, dialogue and exchanges are critical to civilisation development. In the 1970s when I was studying in Beijing Language and Culture University, a slogan that says “learning from each other and helping each other” was very popular in China. As an exchange student, I felt the inclusiveness and cultural richness of China. Today, President Xi Jinping proposed that we advocate the respect for the diversity of civilisations. Countries need to uphold the principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness among civilisations, and let

cultural exchanges transcend estrangement, mutual learning transcend clashes, and coexistence transcend feelings of superiority. This perception suits the trend of the times, draws from traditional Chinese culture and matches the direction of international development. Great minds in ancient China emphasised that “harmony is invaluable”. Exactly based on historic and cultural heritages, the Global Civilisation Initiative gives full respect to the culture of all countries and aims at jointly promoting the inheritance and innovation of world civilisations. It is a significant path of sustainable development that is worth promoting.

**Question:** *As the future of all countries is closely connected, tolerance, coexistence, exchanges and mutual learning among different civilisations play an irreplaceable role in advancing humanity's modernisation process and making the garden of world civilisations flourish. Therefore, we need to advocate the respect for the diversity of civilisations. Countries need to uphold the principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness, and let cultural exchanges transcend estrangement, mutual learning transcend clashes, and coexistence transcend feelings of superiority. As a sinologist, you know China and the Republic of Korea very well. What is your view about this?*

**Jeon Hong-seok** from the Republic of Korea: I fully agree with the Global Civilisation Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping. This initiative helps to break new grounds in the people-to-people and cultural exchanges among countries around the world. As a scholar from ROK dedicated to the study of East Asian civilisation, I am greatly inspired by this.

From the general point of view, “civilisation” can be seen as the upper-level concept of culture. Culture at the micro level is an integral element of a civilisation unit. Among different civilisations, the cultural elements have both homogeneity and heterogeneity, which cause the reconciliation and contradiction among civilisations. We should find the homogeneous cultural elements to build bridge for communication and understanding among us. In the meantime, we should base on this and have dialogues among the heterogeneous parts so as to achieve better understanding and inclusiveness. This will help build a harmonious and diversified community of civilisations

that goes beyond border limits. And the convergence of diversified cultures will certainly boost the progress of human civilisation as a whole.

After the disintegration of the Cold War order, discussions on civilisation kept emerging with themes of communication, dialogues, coexistence and empathy. Study on East Asia and regional community was also carried out from various perspectives and at different levels and has continued till today. These East Asia theories contain the nature and core of a “community of civilisations”, which explores regional unity, identity recognition and regional order that go beyond national borders. As a scholar, I will continue to go deep into and expand the theory of East Asia community within the blueprint of human civilisation and interpret and explore the status quo and future of East Asia with the methodology of human civilisation.

**Question:** *How do you understand the continuation of ancient Chinese civilisation and its significance to the world?*

**Zamir Ahmed Awan** from Pakistan: China has an ancient civilisation. Its history has gone through many twists and turns and dates back to thousands of years ago. Since modern times, China has suffered colonisation and aggression of Western powers. Chinese people have learned a lot from this adversity and become more matured, sagacious, rational and united. Today's China is a matured, wise and far-sighted country. As it rises to be a global power,

China is well aware of its global obligation and responsibility. China has been playing a critical role in geopolitics, making significant contribution to global peace, security, development and prosperity. China has added a new milestone of building a community with a shared future for mankind and is estimated to make continued contribution to global economy, security, development and welfare.

**Question:** *What contribution do you think the Global Civilisation Initiative is making to the world?*

**Mario Cavolo** from the United States: China is trying to share its wisdom and solutions to bring new hopes to every country, and to work with others to think about how to avoid the trap of "the clash of civilisations". China's peaceful rise is changing the world. China is now one of the safest, the most stable and prosperous countries. I hope that people who live and work in China would realise that the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is the glory of our generation and how amazing it is to make it happen. Other countries should also look at the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation in a positive way because it is contributing to world civilisations.

The international community has realised that no country is superior to another, no governance mode is universally adaptable and no country is entitled to arbitrariness. The common interests of mankind depends on a united and peaceful world instead of a divided and turbulent one. As a foreigner very familiar with China's development in the past two decades, I ask myself the question "how is China doing?" The answer is China has made extraordinary achievements unprecedented in human history. In the past 20 years, I saw a thriving country instead one trapped in plight, conflict or war. Moreover, China has never resorted to war in the past four decades of development and prosperity.



**Question:** *In his remarks on the evening of March 15, President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Civilisation Initiative for the first time. How do you evaluate the Initiative?*

**Michele Geraci** from Italy: The Global Civilisation Initiative proposed by China is very important and stands as a sharp contrast against the remarks by Western leaders in terms of content and style. The Communist

Party of China guides the national economy, society and moral principles in a very far-sighted manner. The Belt and Road Initiative of China brings benefits and profits to Italy.

**Question:** *The friendly exchanges between China and the United Arab Emirates have come into a new stage of the new era. What's your idea about the Global Civilisation Initiative and the mutual learning between Chinese and Arab civilisations?*

**Ebrahim Hashem** from UAE: China put forward the Global Civilisation Initiative at the right time and rebutted those who think they are the flower and others are the leaves. China proposed that one single flower does not make a spring but a garden full of blooming flowers does. Over two thousand years ago, the ancient Silk Road linked Arab people and Chinese people together. Since then, the two peoples have enjoyed brother-like relations, which is still

very solid today. To inherit ancient civilisations, we need to hold hands and march forward. China-Arab relations are gaining momentum in recent years and still have great potential for further development in the years to come. I hope and expect that China-Arab relations continue to move forward on the current development track. Through this ancient Silk Road, we will steer our bilateral relations into a new golden age.

**Question:** *Entering into the 21st century, human civilisation has met with risks and challenges in the process of modernisation. People start to reflect upon the problems appeared in the process of modernisation. What do you think that the East and the West, or different countries have done in this regard?*

**Zahiri Mahmoud** from Iran: In 2001, Seyyed Mohammad Khatami, the then-President of Iran, proposed the idea of “dialogues among civilisations” in the United Nations. But unfortunately, there were no follow-up continuation and implementation. In my view, different civilisations and cultures should be complementary instead of interferential or destructive. But in these years, we see only hostility and competition among civilisations and cultures (the Clash of Civilisations theory) instead of conciliation, inclusiveness and

dialogue. The Iranian Government in different periods of time has different foreign policy principles. But it’s undeniable that more and more policy makers and people are looking to the East. The fact that the state leaders are “looking east” is a symbol of their considerations. Now President Xi Jinping proposed the constructive Global Civilisation Initiative. This makes us filled with hope and vision of the coordinated development among civilisations and cultures.

## The Third Session of the World Sinology Lecture Convened Successfully

The third session of the World Sinology Lecture co-organised by the Chinese Association for International Understanding and Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) was held in a hybrid form on March 17th in Beijing, themed “The Communication and Mutual Learning among Civilisations in Promoting Human Progress”. Chen Zhou, Vice Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, Sergey Manassarian, Ambassador of Armenia to China, Gafar Karar, former Ambassador of Sudan to China, and Liu Li, President of BLCU attended the Lecture in person and delivered speeches respectively. Approximately 300 guests, including sinologists and scholars from over 40 countries worldwide and international students under the “China Studies Programme” in China, participated in this event.

Chen Zhou said that, on March 15th, the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting was successfully convened. General Secretary Xi Jinping put forward the Global Civilisation Initiative at the Meeting and

called for all countries to promote exchanges and dialogues among civilisations in depth and persistently, and advance development and progress of human civilisation through mutual learning. The Global Civilisation Initiative is another major public product provided to the international community by China in the New Era after the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative. The World Sinology Lecture, a high-end platform for dialogue among civilisations, is a vivid practice of the building of a global network for inter-civilisation dialogue and cooperation. Chen hoped that sinologists from all countries will further play their role as a link to promote mutual learning among civilisations, a bridge to connect Chinese and foreign civilisations, and an envoy to enhance people-to-people bond, contributing their wisdom and strength to the implementation of the Global Civilisation Initiative.

The sinologists at the Lecture highly praised the Global Civilisation Initiative proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping, and reached

consensus that the Global Civilisation Initiative expresses the common aspiration of sinologists across the world, airs the strong voice of China's ancient civilisation at the crossroads of the world history, and proposed the "Chinese approach" conforming to the requirements of the times. The four "advocates" in this Initiative embody the principles of equality, inclusiveness, democracy and justice, which will provide guarantees for the development and prosperity of world civilisation, promote mutual understanding and friendship among people of all countries and jointly advance the

progress of human civilisations. Sinologists are natural practitioners and promoters. They should "jointly weave the spiritual emblem of the community with a shared future of mankind with good academic quality as the needle and the Global Civilisation Initiative as the thread", promote the cultural exchanges and cooperation between China and the world through various ways, and facilitate the implementation of the Global Civilisation Initiative.

## Latest Events of CAFIU

On March 27th, CAFIU Vice-President Ai Ping met with Mr. Mohammed Saqib, Secretary General of the India China Economic and Cultural Council. The two sides exchanged views on China-India relations and people-to-people exchanges.

On April 13th, CAFIU Vice-President Liu Hongcai met with Mr. Kamada Takeaki, President of Japan-China Friendship Association, Junior Chamber International Japan. Both sides exchanged views on the development of China-Japan relations and people-to-people exchanges.

On April 20th, CAFIU Vice-President Ai Ping met with Mr. Abeysekera, President of Association for Sri Lanka-China Social and Cultural Cooperation. Both sides exchanged views on

people-to-people bonds between China and Sri Lanka and other issues of common interest.

On April 27th, CAFIU Vice-President Liu Hongcai met with Mr. Cha Kwang-Sun, President of MRA/IC Korean Association. Both sides exchanged views on China-ROK relations, people-to-people exchanges and other issues of common interest.

From May 29th to June 7th, a CAFIU delegation headed by Vice-President Liu Hongcai visited Vietnam, ROK and Japan. The delegation had discussions and exchanges with political leaders, heads of non-governmental organisations, experts and scholars from the three countries to enhance the people-to-people bonds and consolidate the social and public opinion foundation for bilateral relations.

## Beijing Peaceland Foundation Attended Meeting of Technical Working Group on Mine Action in Cambodia

On April 4, Beijing Peaceland Foundation (BPF) was invited to attend the Meeting of Technical Working Group on Mine Action in Cambodia. LY Thuch, Senior Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia and the First Vice-President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMMA), expressed his gratitude to BPF for its active participation in the mine action in Cambodia since 2018, clearing a large number of minefields, benefiting local

people and protecting the lives and health of local residents. BPF Chair of Board Wang Ke and Cambodia Mine Clearance Project Officer Liu Wenzhi visited Lao Tsai, Representative of the Secretariat of the Senate, and held talks with Vandy Moeng, Secretary General of the Cambodia-China Friendship Association. They also exchanged views on site with APOPO (Anti Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling) and the Mine Action Centre.



## The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Bestowed Honorary Title of “Friendship Ambassador” to Former Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

On April 3, the “Friendship Ambassador” Awarding Ceremony was held at the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC). CPAFFC President Lin Songtian presented the medal and certificate to former Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. CPAFFC Vice-President Yuan Mindao, Vice-President of Chinese Public Diplomacy

Association Luo Linqun, Vice-President of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Jiao Yutong, the Philippines Ambassador to China Jaime, Chairperson of the Association for Philippine-China Understanding Raul Lambino, and more than 70 guests and youth representatives from China and the Philippines attended the ceremony.



## **Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Launched the "iBeijing" 2023 Beijing International Friendship Forest Tree Planting Event**

On April 15, Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the Office of Beijing Greening Commission, Beijing Committee of the Communist Youth League, Beijing NGO Network for International Exchanges, Beijing Minhe Foundation for International Exchanges and the People's Government of Changping District jointly launched the "iBeijing" 2023 Beijing

International Friendship Forest Tree Planting Event. Nearly 200 participants, including foreign diplomats, foreign experts in Beijing, and representatives of international students from 45 countries on 5 continents, took part in the event and planted more than 200 saplings of various tree species in Aobei Forest Park (Phase II) in Changping District.





## China Development Research Foundation Hosted International Symposium on ESG and Sustainable Development

Recently, China Development Research Foundation hosted the International Symposium on ESG and Sustainable Development in Beijing. The symposium aimed to follow the new development philosophy, implement the green development strategy, tell China's story well, increase company values, promote exchanges and mutual learning on ESG practices between Chinese and foreign

enterprises, and form an internationally accepted ESG system with Chinese characteristics. Well-known experts, scholars, entrepreneurs and leaders of international organisations gathered to discuss and share the new trends of ESG development at home and abroad, and offered ideas to the sustainable development of China and the world.



## **A Roundtable Dialogue among Ambassadors on the Global Civilisation Initiative Was Held**

On April 27, Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies, together with the Beijing Diplomatic Service and the Centre for International Security and Strategy of Tsinghua University successfully held a Roundtable Dialogue among ambassadors to China at Beijing International Club. The dialogue focused on the Global Civilisation Initiative, inviting Ye Xiaowen, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Culture, Historical Data and Studies of the 13th CPPCC National Committee

and Former Head of the National Religious Affairs Administration, and Xu Bu, President of China Institute of International Studies, to explain the cultural connotation and China's thinking of the Global Civilisation Initiative as well as its significance to the world. More than 30 ambassadors and senior diplomats from 30 countries on 5 continents attended the dialogue and exchanged views on the value of times of the Global Civilisation Initiative and its implementation.



## **The International Free Lunch Project of the Chinese Red Cross Foundation Benefits Two More Schools**

On May 9, the International Free Lunch Project of the Chinese Red Cross Foundation officially launched at Matu Primary School and Genesis Joy Primary School in Kenya, benefiting 663 teachers and students from the two schools with free nutritious meals. The International Free Lunch Project in Matu Primary School and

Genesis Joy Primary School is sponsored by the Lion Love Lunch Project of Guangdong Lions Club and China Council of Lions Clubs Zhejiang Representative Office through the Red Cross Foundation of China, which will provide free nutritious meals for the two schools for one year.

## The International Youth Friendship Gathering at China Three Gorges Corporation was Held in Beijing



On May 18, the International Youth Friendship Gathering at China Three Gorges Corporation was held in Beijing, co-hosted by All-China Youth Federation and China Three Gorges Corporation and organised by Beijing branch of Three Gorges Corporation. Dong Xia, Deputy Secretary-General of All-China Youth Federation, Zhou Lin, Deputy Secretary of Youth League Working Committee for Central Enterprises, and Hua Mei, Employee Director of China Three Gorges Corporation, Deputy Director of the Trade Union of China Three Gorges Corporation and Secretary of

the CPC Committee of China Three Gorges Corporation (Beijing) attended the event and delivered speeches respectively. About 80 delegates attended the events, including Youth representatives from the “Bridge of the Future” China-Central and Latin America Youth Leaders Training Camp, youth league committee leaders from the Three Gorges Corporation, the Power Construction Corporation of China and other central corporations, Head of Beijing branch of the Three Gorges Corporation and youth representatives from Beijing Youth Federation.

## Belt and Road China-Africa Sports Diplomacy Forum Successfully Convened



On May 20, China Foreign Affairs University, Beijing People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and Beijing Municipal Bureau of Sports jointly convened the Belt and Road China-Africa Sports Diplomacy Forum at the Shahe Campus of China Foreign Affairs University.

Diplomats from more than 10 African countries including Guinea, Madagascar, Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Kenya, Gabon, as well as representatives from the Department of African Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and the Department of Asian and African Affairs of

the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and 150 teachers and students from China Foreign Affairs University, sports experts and scholars from Beijing Sport University, China Institute of Sport Science of General Administration of Sport of China, Asian Football Confederation, Beijing Football Association and other professional experts and scholars attended the Forum. The Forum was presided over by Zhang Qian, Executive Vice-President of Beijing People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and Wang Yanxia, Vice-President of Beijing People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, attended the Forum.



## International Children's Day Activity for Chinese and Lao Students Launched at Xishuangbanna



Jointly sponsored by the China Charity Federation and the Ministry of Education and Sports of Laos, the sixth “Belt and Road, People-to-People Bonds” Student's Hand-in-Hand Activity and the International Children's Day Activity for Chinese and Lao Students was launched in Xishuangbanna on May 24.

100 young students from 17 provinces and

one municipality of Laos arrived in China from Vientiane of Laos on an international passenger train through the China-Laos Railway on the afternoon of May 23. After a full day of activities in Xishuangbanna as the launching ceremony, the students embarked on a 16-day journey of friendship to places including Kunming, Beijing, Xi'an, Xiamen, and Guangzhou.



