

INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

国际交流

3

Vol. 3, 2025

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LETTING THE WORLD UNDERSTAND CHINA  
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中国国际交流协会  
CHINESE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

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**International Standard Serial  
Number:**

**ISSN1002-8285**

**China Standard Serial Number:**

**CN11-2491/D**

**Address:**

**4 Fuxing Road Beijing China**

**Postcode: 100860**

**Tel: 83907354 83907341**

**Fax: 83907342**

**http://www.cafiu.org.cn**

**E-Mail: cafiu@cafiu.org.cn**

Have a comment or question? International Understanding welcomes your feedback.

E-mail our editorial team at cafiu@cafiu.org.cn or write to us at International Understanding, 4 Fuxing Road, Beijing 100860, China.

Letters may be edited for length or content.

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## The Second International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on Global Development Initiative Held in Hohhot

The Second International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on the Global Development Initiative, organised by the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and the People’s Government of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, was held in Hohhot from 9th to 11th September under the theme of “Building Global Consensus on Development and Sharing Opportunities for a Prosperous Future”.

Xiao Jie, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress and President of CNIE, attended the opening ceremony and delivered a keynote speech. Xiao stressed that China will remain unwaveringly committed to high-level opening up, uphold the vision of building a

community with a shared future for mankind, and work with the international community to actively implement the Global Development Initiative through joint efforts to make global development fairer, safer and more sustainable.

Louis Vlavonou, President of the National Assembly of Benin, Ban Ki-moon, the 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Nheb Bunchhay, First Vice-President of the Senate of Cambodia, attended the opening ceremony and delivered remarks, stressing that the Global Development Initiative meets the needs of all countries, and they stand ready to work together for global sustainable development.



## **Ban Ki-moon: China Has Always Been a Staunch Advocator and Key Contributor to Global Sustainable Development**

Ban Ki-moon, the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations, said in China on 10th September that China has always been a staunch advocator and crucial contributor to global sustainable development. It has achieved 126 target indicators of the UN Sustainable Development Goals ahead of schedule, taking a leading position globally.

The Second International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on the Global Development Initiative kicked off on 10th September in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China. Ban Ki-moon attended and addressed the opening ceremony of the conference.

In 2021, President Xi Jinping proposed the GDI, offering Chinese solutions for tackling global development challenges. Ban believes that the GDI, which emphasises a people-centred approach and inclusive partnership, has injected valuable impetus into accelerating the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Initiative recognises the multi-dimensional nature of sustainable development, linking economic growth with the improvement of people's livelihoods, ecological balance, and social equity.

To date, more than 80 countries have joined the Group of Friends of the GDI, launched by China at the UN. In Ban's view, this phenomenon is "encouraging" and "demonstrates that in today's closely interconnected world, countries are increasingly recognising that no single nation can thrive in isolation".

Speaking about Inner Mongolia, where the Conference was held, Ban said that over the past decade, the region has achieved remarkable success in both economic development and ecological conservation. Large-scale ecological restoration projects have expanded forest and vegetation coverage, effectively combating desertification while improving local living standards.

At the same time, through cultural tourism and the preservation of cultural heritage, Inner Mongolia has demonstrated that economic development can go hand in hand with the preservation of traditions," Ban said. He added that the development experience of Inner Mongolia provides valuable references for Asia and the world at large.

The conference focused on exchanges and

cooperation within international civil society. In this regard, Ban emphasised that civil society must continue to promote open dialogue. “By choosing cooperation over division, we can build consensus and achieve win-win outcomes.” he said.

The Second International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on the Global Development Initiative was hosted by the China NGO Network

for International Exchanges and the People’s Government of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Under the theme of “Building Global Consensus on Development and Sharing Opportunities for a Prosperous Future”, the Conference brought together over 300 Chinese and international representatives from more than 50 countries.



## Work Together to Build Consensus and Create the Future with Global Peers

### Sidelights on the Opening Ceremony of the 2nd International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on the Global Development Initiative

On 10th September, the 2nd International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on the Global Development Initiative kicked off in Hohhot. With the theme of "Building Global Development Consensus and Sharing Development

Opportunities for a Prosperous Future", more than 300 Chinese and international participants from more than 50 countries gathered to discuss global development issues.



At the grand meeting, the consensus of working together became clearer and more powerful.

Xiao Jie, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress as well as President of the China NGO Network for International Exchanges, said that President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Development Initiative focusing on the practical needs and long-term goals of global development. China has always been an active player in promoting global development and has made positive contributions to global implementation. Looking forward to the future, China will unswervingly expand high-level opening up to the outside world, deepen the integration of interests with other countries, share opportunities for Chinese-style modernisation development, and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Louis Vlavonou, President of the National Assembly of Benin, said that the successful convening of this conference would further enhance the strategic partnership between the two countries, strengthen exchanges and cooperation in various fields, and yield more pragmatic cooperation results benefiting the two peoples.

This cross-border dialogue was full of pragmatism and enthusiasm. Ban Ki-moon, the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations, said that he hoped that international civil society would intensify its efforts in promoting knowledge sharing, building multi-party partnerships and advocating a favourable environment, so as to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Nheb Bunchhay, First Vice-President of the Senate of Cambodia, expressed his wish that all participants take this conference as an opportunity

to consolidate the foundation of multilateralism and build a partnership of mutual respect, defending sovereignty and promoting justice through the joint efforts.

Inner Mongolia is an important node in the joint construction of the BRI land channel, an important bridgehead for China's opening northward, and an important gateway for the new land-sea channel in the west. Sun Shaocheng, Secretary of the CPC Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Committee and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Inner Mongolia, said that Inner Mongolia is comprehensively advancing high-level opening-up to the outside world, stands ready to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation with international civil society, share development opportunities and create a prosperous future while enhancing mutual understanding and deepening friendship.

During the conference, the theme exhibition session became the most touching scene. This session took the "Six Commitments" of the Global Development Initiative as the thread, integrating multiple forms of expression such as vivid case narration, immersive scene interpretation, traditional Chinese art and cutting-edge AI visual technology, vividly demonstrating the heartwarming stories of development cooperation from the perspective of ordinary people, and profoundly interpreting the rich connotation of the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind with innovative expression.

The event showcased how the China-Laos Railway and the "Access to Satellite TV for 10,000 African Villages" project reflect a shared commitment to prioritising development. Stories were shared on how China's mobile heart surgery vehicles

gave new life to patients in partner countries, and how Chinese volunteers dedicated themselves to helping local kids in a poor community of Kenya. Through an AI-powered video, it presented a vibrant vision of young people imagining how future technological advances benefit humanity. Highlighting cases such as Chinese civil society's efforts in desertification control in Inner Mongolia and cooperative protection of the Yangtze River finless porpoise, the event demonstrated China's practices in ecological progress and their global relevance. The opening ceremony also featured scenario-based performances illustrating how

Chinese state-owned enterprises are fostering youth innovation and entrepreneurship worldwide to help their dreams come true. Through six thematic presentations, namely "Connection for a Shared Dream of Development", "The Lifesaver in Motion", "Hope Beyond Borders", "A Future Illuminated by Technology", "A Green Poem by Sand and Water" and "From Vision to Action: The Path to Global Development", the event employed storytelling and innovative performing to showcase the positive outcomes and vivid practices of joint efforts by people from different countries in implementing the Global Development Initiative.



The "100 million Haloxylon ammodendron" project is a classic example of continuous exploration and deep cultivation in the place of origin by the Alashan SEE Ecological Association and the SEE Foundation since their founding. At this conference, as one of the representatives of Chinese non-governmental organisations, the SEE Foundation exhibited the practical achievements and innovative models of the "100

million Haloxylon ammodendron" at the opening ceremony, showing guests from all over the world the in-depth exploration and contribution of Chinese non-governmental forces in the field of desertification control.

"Today, we shared how to realise the positive interaction between ecological restoration and sustainable development through the multiple paths of scientific tree planting, community

management, public advocacy and enterprise collaboration. Standing on the international stage and showing guests from all over the world the exploration of Chinese non-governmental organisations in desertification control is not only a recognition of our decade-long efforts, but also means that Chinese environmental NGOs are making their own voices on the world stage. At the same time, listening to the sharing of peers

around the world, I also feel a strong sense of responsibility.” Sun Jing, Director of desertification control project of the SEE Foundation, said while participating in the theme exhibition of the “Green Poems of Sand and Water”.

A small Naadam was staged wonderfully, allowing Chinese and foreign guests to immerse themselves in the charm of China’s national intangible cultural heritage.



By closely following the Global Development Initiative, the conference selected best cases of international non-governmental development cooperation to fully demonstrate the fruitful cooperation results of countries in jointly promoting development in different fields. During the conference, parallel events on economic, trade, and livelihood topics as well as a cooperation networking activity will also be held to build a platform for high-quality local economic and social development and high-level opening up. It is reported that the organisers of this conference have extensively collected achievements from relevant domestic departments, social organisations, media, think tanks, enterprises as well as partners from other countries, and compiled a list of achievements of

the Second International Civil Society Exchange Conference on Joint Implementation of Global Development Initiatives. In the future, more than 50 achievement projects of economic and trade cooperation, people's livelihood cooperation and people-to-people exchanges will be implemented in developing countries.

Face to face communication and multiple lists of cooperation agreements during the conference show the collaborative strength of moving in the same direction and depict vivid scenes that can be expected in the future. This “development bridge” built by non-governmental forces has already linked the expectations of different countries and regions for moving towards a better future.

## Key Outcome Projects at the Second International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on Global Development Initiative

The Second International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on the Global Development Initiative was held from 9th to 11th September in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia. With an outcome-driven orientation, the conference now presents two selected projects:

### I. Chinese Civil Distant-Water Medical Ship Project

This project was jointly launched by the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and the Beijing Peaceland Foundation, and initially proposed during the first session of the conference. With strong support of CNIE, and

after three years of preparation and construction, this Distant-Water medical rescue ship, the very first of its kind built solely with the efforts of Chinese NGOs, has finally been accomplished. This 5,000-tonne vessel will carry representatives from civil society organisations, volunteers, and volunteer doctors to Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and other regions. It will provide free medical services for local populations in countries along its route, conduct disaster relief training for local humanitarian organisations, and participate in disaster response. The successful construction of this ship represents a significant practical action by Chinese NGOs, with the guidance of CNIE, in responding to the Global Development Initiative.



## II. China Volunteer Doctor Project

This project was initiated in 2017 by Professor Ling Feng, founder of the Beijing Lingfeng Foundation and China's renowned expert on neurosurgery. The four primary missions of the Chinese Volunteer Doctors are: aiding the disadvantaged group, providing free clinical services, conducting disaster relief, and offering foreign medical aid. As of July 31, 2025, nearly 8,000 medical workers have registered as Chinese Volunteer Doctors. In recent years, these volunteers have made effective medical assistance efforts in countries including Guinea, Myanmar, and Cambodia.

In August this year, Chinese Volunteer Doctors conducted the "2025 Chinese Volunteer Doctors African Medical Mission & International Volunteer Medical Programme" in Ethiopia. This also marked the inaugural activity of the flagship programme "Health Connects the World" initiated

by CNIE Committee on Health Care. Lasting for two weeks, the mission involved 27 volunteer doctors from several renowned Chinese hospitals, providing free clinical services in specialties like neurosurgery, cardiology, gynaecology & obstetrics, and ophthalmology, alongside performing over a hundred charitable surgeries. This mission witnessed the application of advanced medical technologies in Africa, the life-saving treatment of a young boy with a brain tumour, and the gynaecology team bringing new hope for women's health. Furthermore, Mme. Mekdes Daba, Minister of Health of Ethiopia, officially became a "Foreign Volunteer of the Chinese Volunteer Doctors." She expressed her honour for joining the Chinese Volunteer Doctors as the first incumbent Minister of Health globally and conveyed her hope to continuously contribute to the friendship between China and Ethiopia as well as to the development of the health sector.



## Focusing on People-to-People Exchanges, Livelihood Cooperation and Economic Engagement

### --Parallel Sessions of the Second International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on the Global Development Initiative

On the morning of 11th September, three parallel sessions of the 2nd International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on the Global Development Initiative were convened in Hohhot, namely Advancing Global Development through People-to-People Connectivity, Advancing Global Development through Livelihood Cooperation and Advancing Global Development through Economic and Trade Cooperation.

The session on Advancing Global Development through People-to-People Connectivity centred on the theme “Deepening People-to-People Exchanges, Jointly Drawing a Picture of Global Development and Prosperity”. The participants engaged in discussions around three key topics:

“From Mutual Understanding and Trust to Joint Development Efforts”, “Practical Explorations of the Two-Way Reinforcement Between People-to-People Exchanges and Development” and “Deepen Youth Exchanges and Unite the Youth Power for Global Development”. The session not only featured innovative practice from various countries on deeply integrating people-to-people exchanges with socioeconomic development, but also fostered sufficient dialogue on “how cultural exchanges can serve as a bond to enhance international mutual trust and drive practical cooperation”, building consensus on empowering global development through people-to-people connectivity.



The session on Advancing Global Development Through Livelihood Cooperation adopted the theme “Shared Livelihood Goals for Closer People-to-people Connectivity” and held roundtable discussions on shared public concerns. Representatives from civil society organisations, experts, and scholars from China and various countries gathered for in-depth exchanges of ideas on three major topics: “Public Welfare and Poverty

Reduction — International NGOs Network for Poverty Reduction Cooperation in Action”, “Health and Well-being” and “International Volunteer Service and Humanitarian Aid”. By analysing the challenges and opportunities in livelihood sector cooperation based on practical experience, the participants jointly explored more effective pathways for collaboration, ensuring the outcomes benefit people across nations in real sense.



Guided by the principle of “Promoting Civil Society Economic and Trade Cooperation, Empowering a New Future for Global Development”, the session on Advancing Global Development through Economic and Trade Cooperation closely addressed new trends in global economy and trade. This session featured roundtable dialogues on three topics “Building a Universally Beneficial and Inclusive Partnership”, “Cultivating New Driving Force for Economic and Trade Cooperation” and

“Empowering Green Development Through Technology”. It not only built a bridge for communication and connection among civil economic and trade entities from various countries, but also provided new perspectives for addressing challenges in economic and trade cooperation and exploring sustainable development models, thereby helping to inject new vitality into global economic and trade collaboration.



## Deepening Practical Cooperation and Expanding the Circle of Friends

As a supporting event of the 2nd International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on the Global Development Initiative, the Practical Cooperation Networking Event was held on the afternoon of 10th September in Hohhot.



The event brought together nearly one hundred Chinese businesses, discussing cooperation and exploring joint development with international guests in livelihood sectors such as healthcare and education. The event injected momentum for enhancing mutual understanding, advancing deeper and more substantive implementation of the Global Development Initiative, and building a global community of development.



The networking session organised 96 Chinese enterprises and institutions. Among them, 37 were from Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, spanning various fields including economy and trade, livelihoods,

culture, and science and technology. The session employed a targeted matching model, grouping participants by sectors and organising relevant meetings. It featured dedicated areas for institutional presentations and contract signing/negotiations. Key international delegations, economic, trade and cultural groups, and livelihood cooperation network groups were scheduled in rotation for efficient interactions with Chinese companies and institutions. The representatives held in-depth and practical discussions focusing on key cooperation areas of the Global Development Initiative, such as peace and development, health and wellness, technological innovation, and the digital economy. The products and technologies showcased by Chinese enterprises attracted significant number of international guests for discussions and on-site signings.



Mr. Michael Mo, Founder and CEO of AD365, Malaysia, "I came from Malaysia, and this is my first time attending this summit. I myself work in rural development. At this summit, I've seen that many companies have products or technologies that can be brought back to my country, Malaysia, for development."



Ms. Maria Oviedo, Programme Director of Optometry, CES University, Colombia, "We are leading a rehabilitation programme. Today's event is an excellent opportunity for us to enhance the skills we use in our research in Colombia."



Mr. Xie Li, Designer, Inner Mongolia Weimingyang Culture Industry Co., Ltd, “Many international guests visited our booth. They showed great interest in our materials and craftsmanship. We’ve exchanged contact information with over 20 guests so far.”



During the event, the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Sri Lanka-China Social and Cultural Cooperation Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding on friendly cooperation on site, promoting collaboration between China’s Inner Mongolia and Sri Lanka in culture, economy, trade, sports, and other fields.



Mr. Indrananda Abeysekera, Chairman of Sri Lanka-China Social and Cultural Cooperation Association, “The convening of this conference is of great significance. It fully mobilises civil society to actively participate in the process of common development, and we can also learn from relevant parties.”



This networking event not only provided an efficient cooperation platform for civil society organisations, enterprises and institutions from various countries, but also enhanced mutual understanding and solidified friendship through face-to-face communication, laying a solid foundation for future collaboration. The participants unanimously expressed that they would take this opportunity to jointly promote the implementation and fruit-bearing of the cooperative projects, contributing civil society strength to accelerating the achievements of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and co-creating a development landscape characterised by mutual benefit, balance, coordination, inclusiveness, win-win cooperation, and shared prosperity.

## 96 Chinese Exhibitors Gather in Hohhot to Explore New Pathways for Cooperation with International Partners



On 10th September, with clear skies and gentle breezes, Hohhot was brimming with a warm atmosphere of openness and cooperation. Hosted by the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and the People’s Government of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, the Second International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on Global Development Initiative was held here, bringing together guests from different parts of the world to discuss new opportunities for cooperative development.



On the afternoon, a key session of the Conference—the Networking Event for Pragmatic Cooperation—was held as scheduled. The venue was filled with guests, which fostered an exceptionally vibrant atmosphere for exchanges. The Networking Event organised 96 domestic enterprises and institutions to set up promotional booths, which collectively showcased high-quality products and cooperative projects across various fields. Among them, 37 enterprises from Inner

Mongolia made a remarkable appearance, forging a significant force of displaying industries with local characteristics.

At the cashmere products booth, soft and delicate cashmere scarves, shawls, and other items attracted many guests from China and abroad. A guest from Russia gently touched a light creamy cashmere shawl, feeling its smooth texture with her fingertips, and couldn't help but give a thumbs-up.

"Our main business covers a full range of cashmere products, including cashmere yarn and clothes, and each product embodies craftsmanship," said Ma Zhonghu, Chairman of Ordos Shuangqi Cashmere Products Co., Ltd, enthusiastically introducing to the guests.

"The raw materials for our cashmere yarn are all sourced from local high-quality goat cashmere. Every step—from selecting, washing, and combing to dyeing and spinning the cashmere—is strictly handled to ensure the yarn threads are even, vibrant in colour, and with low pilling rates. Our cashmere clothes are entirely made with our high-quality self-produced yarn, and our products' reliable quality was highly favoured by customers."



According to Ma Zhonghu, his products have so far covered over 100 regions across nearly 30 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the central government in China. They have also successfully entered international markets, including Singapore, the ROK, Russia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, and Ukraine. "This Networking event provides us with an excellent platform to showcase our products. We hope

to leverage this opportunity to bring more high-quality cashmere products from Inner Mongolia to a larger international stage."

"It is a great honour to participate in this Networking event," said Zhou Jin, President of the Shandong Fashion Association. "A few minutes ago, several guests from Africa expressed great admiration for the horse-face skirts displayed at our booth, and asked about the history, cultural connotation and craft techniques. They tried the skirts on and purchased without hesitation." She expected



more exchange opportunities in the future for traditional Chinese clothing to go global, display their unique charm on the international stage, and let the world better understand Chinese culture.



During the Networking Event, several cooperation signing ceremonies were successfully held, marking significant achievements in promoting practical cooperation. Representing the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Maurica Oil & Gas Ltd signed a Memorandum of Understanding with China International Cultural Technology Resources Group Co., Ltd, Kangqian Aotai (Shanghai) Petroleum Development Co., Ltd, and Yingxionglan Shipping Company. At the signing ceremony, representatives from all parties shook hands and sent greetings, brimming with anticipation for future cooperation on their faces. They all expressed their readiness to take this MoU as an opportunity to deepen collaboration in the oil and natural gas sector and achieve mutual benefit and win-win outcomes.

The signing between the Beijing Peaceland Foundation and the Ghana Festus Garvey Foundation LBG was also of outstanding significance. Both parties formally signed a mobile surgery vehicle donation agreement.

The Beijing Crafts Council and Malaysia's AD365 Group signed a Letter of Intent for Cooperation on site. Both sides would engage in in-depth collaboration around new mechanisms repellents, a technology for blocking mosquito and tick transmission, and pathogen. Their cooperation covers multiple areas, including commerce, production cooperation, industrial park construction, and finance.

Throughout the Networking Event, seeds of cooperation were sown, and the hope for development continuously grew, which became a vivid case of practice by international civil society jointly implementing the Global Development Initiative.

## Foreign Delegations Attending the Second International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on Global Development Initiative Visited Inner Mongolia

With the crisp autumn weather, China's northern frontier region warmly welcomed guests from various parts of the world. From 6th to 11th September, six foreign delegations attending the Second International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on the Global Development Initiative visited Hohhot and the Xilingol League in Inner Mongolia.

Louis Vlavonou, President of the National Assembly of Benin, and Ouch Borith, First Vice-President of the Senate of Cambodia, led a delegation respectively.

The delegations visited cultural venues, planning exhibition halls, community pastoral areas, and modern enterprises in the two locations, gaining in-depth understanding of Inner Mongolia's history and culture, humanistic development, industrial innovation, livelihood improvement, and ecological advancement.

At the Yili Future Intelligence and Health Valley, automated equipment such as KUKA robotic arms, AGV unmanned transport vehicles, and the E3 ultra-high-speed filling production line became key points of interest. Foreign guests kept asking questions and taking photos. "As a good friend of China, I am delighted by China's development. After visiting this company, we admired China for its accomplishments and hope that Cambodia

could also be home to such companies," said Ouch Borith.

In the history exhibition hall of the Inner Mongolia Museum, exhibits of stone tools, pottery, jade artifacts, and other items from different historical periods attracted many delegates. Fred Teng, President of the America China Public Affairs Institute, remarked, "Inner Mongolia has a long and fascinating history, and every historical period has its own unique charm."

At the M-Grass Seed Industry Centre, the delegates learned about grass seed research and ecological restoration models, and showed strong interest in the company's innovative achievements in ecological governance. Stephen Cheboi, Chairman of Kenya National Federation of Public Benefits Organisations, noted, "This place is remarkable, and its innovation experience is worth drawing upon."

The visit was accompanied by heated discussions. The delegates expressed their views that the visit was fruitful and substantial, which not only enhanced their understanding of Inner Mongolia's development, but also strengthened the confidence and willingness of international civil society to jointly implement the Global Development Initiative.

# Impressions from a Visit to Inner Mongolia

By Fred S. Teng

## Tradition and Innovation in Harmony

### A Visit to Xilinhot, Inner Mongolia

From 6th to 11th of September, 2025, an international delegation organised by the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), together with the Xilingol League and Xilinhot Foreign Affairs Office, visited Xilinhot, Inner Mongolia. Delegates from 13 countries—including Argentina, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Russia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda, the United States, and others—came to witness how this northern frontier of China is charting a path that blends heritage with innovation, and local strengths with global cooperation.

#### A Ranch with a Mission

The journey began at the Ting Bateer Ecological Family Ranch. Mr. Ting Bateer and his wife have built more than one ranch: they have cultivated a community hub that sustains livelihoods, preserves grasslands, and strengthens local bonds. Their work underscores a larger truth—that sustainable development often begins with the dedication of individuals who see themselves as stewards of both land and people.

#### Preserving Heritage, Shaping Identity

At the Xilingol Museum, the delegation gained a deeper sense of the Mongolian people's traditions and the ecological evolution of the grasslands. The museum made it clear that cultural preservation is not a luxury but a necessity, anchoring regional identity while reinforcing pride and resilience.

#### Balancing Energy and Ecology

The Shenhua Shenglu No.1 Open-pit Mine illustrated both the scale of modern resource extraction and the responsibilities it entails. Conversations highlighted how new technologies in safety, efficiency and land restoration are being applied to minimise impact. Here, Xilinhot is navigating the difficult balance between meeting energy needs and protecting the environment.

#### Agriculture with Global Reach

Xilinhot's growing role in food security was evident at the Shoufang Food Processing Park and Aviko (Inner

Mongolia) Food Company. Shoufang demonstrated how local agricultural resources can be transformed into high-quality products for wider markets. Aviko, a joint venture with international partners, showed how global standards and local strengths can merge to create competitive products for the world. Together, these enterprises reveal how regional economies can plug into global supply chains while benefiting local communities.

### **Investing in People**

At Xilingol Vocational College, education was front and centre. The college prepares young people with practical skills matched to industry needs, ensuring that regional development is grounded in a capable and future-ready workforce. Education here is not abstract—it is directly tied to opportunity and progress.

### **Winds of the Future**

The final visit, to Xilinhot Mingyang New Energy Company, symbolised the city's future-oriented outlook. With vast wind power initiatives, Inner Mongolia is positioning itself as a renewable energy hub and contributing to China's carbon reduction goals. Standing among turbines that stretch across the horizon, one could feel both the literal and figurative winds of change.

### **Lessons Beyond Inner Mongolia**

What struck many delegates was the coherence of Xilinhot's development story. Whether in community-led ranching, cultural preservation, industrial modernisation, or renewable energy, the region is demonstrating that progress does not mean sacrificing heritage, and growth does not need to come at the expense of the environment.

For the international participants, the visit offered lessons with global relevance. Xilinhot shows that regional development can thrive when cultural pride, local initiative and openness to international collaboration converge.

As the world debates how to reconcile tradition with modernity and growth with sustainability, Xilinhot offers an encouraging model. Its message is clear: the future is not about choosing one path over another, but about harmonising them.

## **From Prehistoric Dinosaurs to the Future in Space**

### **A Journey to the Inner Mongolia Museum**

The new Inner Mongolia Museum in Hohhot is an architectural landmark in its own right. Its sweeping curves and bold lines evoke both the vastness of the steppe and the ambition of a region confident in its past and future. Before one even steps inside, the building's exterior makes a lasting impression: this is more than a museum, it is a statement of identity.

Inside, the journey becomes one through centuries and even millennia. On my visit, I moved through four very different sections—the Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties; the modern revolutionary galleries; the space exhibition; and finally, the dinosaur hall. Together they tell not just the story of Inner Mongolia, but also that of humanity’s endurance, imagination, and place in the natural world.

### **Dynasties on the Grassland**

The Yuan, Ming and Qing galleries reveal a region at the crossroads of the empires. The Yuan dynasty, founded by the Mongols, is remembered here not just as a ruling house, but as evidence of the grasslands’ central role in shaping Chinese history. Weapons, ceremonial robes and trade artifacts speak of a culture that balanced martial strength with refinement.

The Ming and Qing collections highlight integration and exchange, as Inner Mongolia both contributed to and absorbed from the currents of empire. These halls remind us that the region was never a peripheral frontier—it was an active participant in China’s dynastic narrative.

### **Revolution and Resilience**

The mood shifts dramatically in the modern revolutionary section. Photographs, letters and relics from wartime battles capture the harsh realities of the 20th century. Here the stories are not of emperors, but of ordinary people who endured invasion, hardship and upheaval.

What struck me most was the balance of solemnity and pride. The galleries do not shy away from suffering, yet they convey resilience and unity. They remind us that history is not just about power, but about the sacrifices of those who struggled for survival and renewal.

### **From Steppe to Space**

The transition from revolution to the space exhibition feels like leaping from earth to sky. Inner Mongolia has a unique claim to China’s space story: the vast plains serve as the landing site for the Shenzhou spacecraft.

Models of satellites and rockets, multimedia displays of launches, and replicas of space capsules make the hall a celebration of human ingenuity. Standing among them, I felt that the steppe’s spirit of exploration had simply shifted horizon—from riders on horseback crossing endless grasslands to taikonauts venturing into orbit. It is a continuity of courage and vision, linking the past and the future.

### **Giants of Prehistory**

My final stop was the dinosaur gallery, where Inner Mongolia’s role in palaeontology takes centre stage. Towering skeletons rise like frozen titans, fossils fill glass cases, and reconstructed habitats bring to life a world millions of years gone.

The effect is humbling. If the revolutionary section showed the endurance of human beings, the dinosaur hall reminded me of our fragility in the face of deep time. Civilisations are fleeting compared with the vast

history written in stone and bone beneath our feet.

### **A Living Horizon**

As I left, I paused again to take in the building's striking exterior. Its modern form seemed to contain within it the sweep of time I had just experienced—from dynasties and revolutions to space and prehistory.

The Inner Mongolia Museum succeeds not just as a collection of artifacts but as a narrative. It links local history to national identity, and natural history to universal wonder. Few museums capture so clearly the continuity of past, present, and future.

For visitors to Hohhot, this museum offers more than an education. It offers a perspective: that the grasslands have nurtured emperors and revolutionaries, dinosaurs and astronauts, and that each, in their own way, belongs to the horizon of Inner Mongolia.

*(Fred S. Teng, President of the America China Public Affairs Institute)*

## **Short Stories in a Big Picture: International Civil Society Focuses on Global Development Initiative**

At the Second International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on the Global Development Initiative held in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, more than 300 Chinese and international representatives from over 50 countries focused on the Global Development Initiative, sharing “Short or individual stories” to illustrate the significance of development.

For Lin Weiwei, a Chinese volunteer engaged in international voluntary service, development means the supply and guarantee of survival necessities. She shared the story of Abid, a 9-year-old boy in Gaza who lost his parents and younger sister in the war. A row of blue tents named “Home of Peace” bearing the Five-star Red Flag, donated by the Beijing One Heart Sphere Charity Foundation, became the new home to him and over 100 other children in Gaza. Abid once folded

a paper house with a chimney and gave it to the volunteer. He said, “the ‘Home of Peace’ won’t collapse like other houses.”

Lin’s organisation, the Federation of Wenzhou Blazing Youth, has collaborated with more than 20 Chinese public welfare organisations, including the Beijing One Heart Sphere Charity Foundation, to provide over 200 batches of supplies for refugees in Gaza. Lin mentioned that, in addition to providing necessities such as shelter, food and water, the volunteers also hand out snacks and put on new clothes and leather shoes for children in Gaza on International Children’s Day, “We want to bring hope to the children.”

Currently, Lin and her colleagues are organising a public welfare art exhibition and charity sale to support Gaza, aiming to raise awareness about international humanitarian aid.



The picture shows charity artworks titled “Hearts with Hope, Love for Gaza” created by students from Wenzhou, Zhejiang.

For Patricio Lumumba, a teenager from Angola, development means finding a direction in life. He said that he once had no plans or aspirations until a Chinese company came to his community. They transformed the dilapidated rooftop into a basketball court and invited coaches to teach basketball for free. His life got hope from then on: he practiced basketball with friends every afternoon and started to attend games.

“Sometimes we win, and sometimes we lose. It was then that I realised that we should never give up until the very last moment. This applies to both basketball and life,” said Lumumba, who visited China for the first time wearing his indigo game jersey printed with the logo and name of the Chinese company. He told the China News Service reporter that this year, he has been selected for the national team and becomes a professional basketball player.

There are many more such Short or individual stories shared at the Conference.

China’s Aid to Africa “10,000 Villages TV Access Project” has brought satellite digital TV signals to African villages. Gabonese presenter Bolabola Joelle Zita said, “We used to hear others tell stories about Africa, while now we tell our own stories to the world.” The experience of studying railway engineering in Shanghai, China, enabled Laotian students Chengxue Thoryiachor and Vongthor Chonglao to become Laos’ first generation of railway engineers with a bachelor’s degree. They shared their feelings about witnessing the launch and operation of the China-Laos Railway: “It fundamentally improved my life and also brought happiness to many others”. Ian Marshall, a patient from Grenada who was cured on China’s mobile surgical vehicle for congenital heart disease, expressed gratitude to the Chinese doctors for giving him a second life. Through these stories, the “big picture” of the Global Development Initiative becomes tangible improvements in people’s livelihoods.



*On 2nd January 2025, a China-Laos Railway international freight train laden with fresh fruits and vegetables departed from Kunming, Yunnan, China, headed for Laos. This marked a significant milestone that since the railway's full operation began on 3rd December 2021, its total freight volume has exceeded 50 million tons.*

In his address, Ouch Borith, First Vice-President of the Senate of Cambodia, noted that ultimately, the world system should not be measured solely by data on GDP, degree of openness, or balance of payments. The people-oriented dimension must also be taken into account. "It is reflected in the

smiling faces of children enjoying quality education, in the stable livelihood of families striving to make ends meet, and in the resilience of communities capable of withstanding shocks and meeting challenges. This is the future we must build."

## Guests from Over 50 Countries Enjoy Naadam Cultural Event on the Grassland

On 10th September, following the opening session of the Second International Civil Society Solidarity Conference on the Global Development Initiative, guests from over 50 countries attended a Naadam cultural event, where they watched traditional local performance. Rounds of warm applause were heard in the venue. This cultural feast not only offered international guests an immersive

experience of the ruggedness and exquisiteness of grassland culture, but also built a bridge of mutual learning among civilisations through the universal language of sports.

The core competitions of the Naadam—wrestling (bokh), horse racing, and archery—collectively known as the “Three Skills of Men,” embody strength, courage, and wisdom. Thirty-two



wrestlers dressed in wrestling costumes entered the arena with steady “dancing” steps. Four archers shot eight arrows while riding horses at a high speed, and the game of riding a horse to pick up Hada highlighted the remarkable tacit cooperation between riders and their horses.

This “small yet exquisite” Naadam combined the boldness of competition, the elegance of artistic expression, and the warmth of everyday life, which allowed the guests to deeply appreciate its unique cultural charm and contributed to the international friendship.



## President Ji Bingxuan Leads a CAFIU Delegation to Hungary and Malta

At the invitation of the Hungarian-Chinese Friendship Association and the Malta China Friendship Society, a CAFIU delegation headed by Ji Bingxuan, President of CAFIU, visited Hungary and Malta from 22nd to 27th September.

In Hungary, President Ji Bingxuan held meetings with Helmut Schmidt, former President of Hungary and János Latorcai, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary, and held discussions with Judit Éva Nagy, President of the Hungarian-Chinese Friendship Association, and representatives of Hungarian sinologists. Ji also attended the activity “Lecture on Civilisation” co-organised by CAFIU, the Chinese Embassy in Hungary, and the Hungarian-

Chinese Friendship Association at the China Cultural Centre in Budapest. Ji delivered a keynote speech titled “Strengthening China-Hungary Civilisational Exchanges and Mutual Learning to Jointly Chart a New Chapter of the ‘Golden Waterway’”. The Hungarian side spoke highly of the bilateral relationship, stating that under the political guidance of the two state leaders, political mutual trust had continuously deepened, and the friendship between the two peoples has grown stronger over time. The Hungarian side is willing to strengthen cooperation with China across various fields, enhance exchanges between civil society organisations, and foster successors to the China-Hungary friendship.





In Malta, President Ji Bingxuan held meetings with George William Vella, former President of Malta, David Agius, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Malta, Mario Calleja, Vice-President of the Malta China Friendship Society, and Stephen Calleya, Director of the Malta Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies. President Ji Bingxuan attended the China-Malta Civilisation Dialogue co-organised by CAFIU and the Chinese Embassy in Malta at the China Cultural Centre in Valletta, where he

delivered a keynote speech titled “Enhancing China-Malta Civilisational Exchanges and Mutual Learning to Chart a New Chapter of Win-Win Cooperation”. The Maltese side expressed its high regard for its relationship with China and showed readiness to enhance exchanges and cooperation in various fields including politics, economy, and culture, so as to continuously strengthen Malta-China relationship.



## Vice-President Ai Ping Leads a CAFIU Delegation to Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia

At the invitation of the Masaliyev Foundation of Kyrgyzstan and the Institute for International Studies of Mongolian Academy of Sciences, a CAFIU delegation headed by Ai Ping, Vice-President of CAFIU and former Vice-Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, visited Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia from 22nd to 26th September. The delegation had in-depth exchanges with representatives from political circles, think tanks, sinologists and civil society organisations of the two countries on bilateral relations, people-to-people cooperation, exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations, etc.

In Kyrgyzstan, Vice-President Ai Ping held

meetings with Iskhak Masaliyev, Chairman of the Chairman of Kyrgyzstan Absamat Masaliyev Public Foundation and Head of the Kyrgyz-Chinese parliamentary friendship group, as well as parliamentary representatives; Roza Kayykova, Executive Director of the “Roza Otunbayeva Initiative” International Public Foundation; and Dogdurbek Chontoev, Rector of the Kyrgyz National University. Vice-President Ai Ping had discussions with experts and scholars from National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic and sinologists from the Kyrgyz National University. Ai Ping also attended and addressed the “Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity” China-Kyrgyzstan people-to-people friendship event.



In Mongolia, Vice-President Ai Ping held meetings with Chinbatyn Undram, Minister of Culture, Sports, Tourism, and Youth of Mongolia; Gangbayar, Advisor to the Speaker of the Parliament of Mongolia and Chairman of the “Khangarid Development Centre”; and Purevsuren Byambakhishig, Director of the Institute of Philosophy of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences.

Ai Ping had discussions with experts and scholars from the Institute of International Studies of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, sinologists from the National University of Mongolia and representatives of civil society organisations. Ai Ping also attended the “Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity” China-Mongolia Civil Society Practical Cooperation Meeting and delivered a speech.



## **Vice-President Liu Hongcai Met with Yukihiisa Fujita, Chairman of Moral Re-Armament Japan (MRA Japan)**

On 30th July, Yukihiisa Fujita, Chairman of Moral Re-Armament Japan (MRA Japan), paid a courtesy call to Liu Hongcai, Vice-President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU). Both sides exchanged views on people-to-people exchanges between China and Japan and relations between the two organisations.

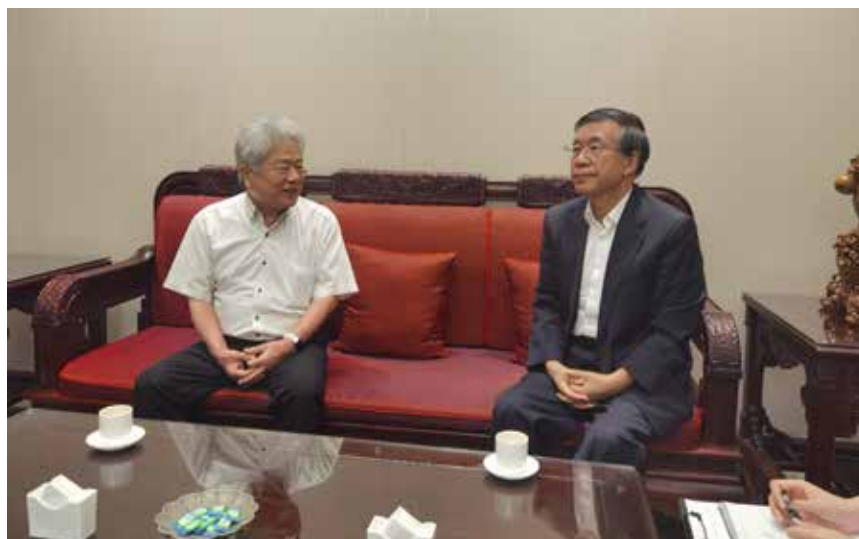
MRA Japan was founded in 1938 with the aim of eliminating the root causes of wars and conflicts through mutual exchanges and trust among nations and individuals. MRA Japan as the Japanese branch of MRA International was founded in 1975 and established relations with CAFIU in 2000.



## **Vice-President Liu Hongcai Met with Masaharu Yamamoto, Director of the Affairs Bureau of the National Federation of Independent Peace and Democracy of Japan**

On 11th August, Masaharu Yamamoto, Director of the Affairs Bureau of the National Federation of Independent Peace and Democracy of Japan (National Federation), paid a courtesy call to CAFIU Vice-President Liu Hongcai, exchanging views on people-to-people contacts between China and

Japan and future cooperation between the two sides. A left-wing organisation founded in 1993 by members of the Japan Socialist Party and labour organisations, the National Federation established relationship with CFAIU in 1998.



## **Vice-President Ai Ping Met with Saqib, Secretary General of the India-China Economic and Cultural Council**

On 16th October, CAFIU Vice-President Ai Ping met with Saqib, Secretary General of the India-China Economic and Cultural Council. Both sides exchanged views on strengthening cooperation between the two organisations as well as international and regional issues of

common concern. Founded in 2003, the India-China Economic and Cultural Council is an Indian NGO with the headquarters in New Delhi. It has offices in Beijing, Shanghai and Mumbai, and has maintained long-term friendly exchanges with CAFIU.



## Vice-President Ai Ping Attended the Third Tongzhou Global Development Forum (2025)

On 18th October, at the invitation of the Chenghai Institute for Global Development and Security of Renmin University of China, Ai Ping, Vice-President of CAFIU, attended the Third Tongzhou Global Development Forum (2025) and spoke at the

“Diplomats Roundtable” session. The Tongzhou Global Development Forum was first held by Renmin University of China in 2003. The theme of this forum was “Coexistence in Harmony: The Foundation and Order of Global Development”.



## Serial Events of Action on “Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity” Held in Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia

On 22nd September 2025, the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) and the “Roza Otunbayeva Initiative” International Public Foundation of Kyrgyzstan jointly hosted the China-Kyrgyzstan People-to-People Friendly Exchange Event in Bishkek within the framework of the Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity. Ai Ping, Vice-President of CAFIU, Li Hua, Minister-counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Kyrgyzstan, and Kayikova, Executive Director of the “Roza Otunbayeva Initiative” International Public Foundation,

attended the event and delivered speeches. Zhou Jiaying, Director of the International Department of the China Charity Alliance, Xia Yayi, Professor of Orthopaedics at the No. 2 Hospital of Lanzhou University, Nogoibayeva, Director of the Kyrgyz “Hope” Children’s Rehabilitation Centre, and Isabekova, Director of the Kyrgyz Association of Children’s Education Institutions, also made remarks. Nearly 50 representatives from NGOs and enterprises of China and Kyrgyzstan participated in the event.



*Ai Ping, Vice-President of CAFIU, delivered a speech.*



*Li Hua, Minister-counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Kyrgyzstan, delivered a speech.*



*Kayikova, Executive Director of the "Roza Otunbayeva Initiative" International Public Foundation delivered a speech*

Before the event, Ai Ping met with Kayikova and had in-depth discussions upon enhancing China-Kyrgyzstan people-to-people cooperation

and exchanges and strengthening mutual understanding and amity between the two peoples.



On 26th September 2025, CAFIU and the Khan Galdi Development Research Centre Association of Mongolia jointly hosted the China-Mongolia People-to-People Cooperation Networking Event in Ulaanbaatar within the framework of the Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity. Ai Ping, Vice-President of CAFIU, Gambayar, Chairman of the Khan Galdi Development Research Centre Association, and Enkhbold, former Minister of Health of Mongolia, attended the event and delivered speeches. Zhang Guojun,

Chief Supervisor of China Council of Lions Clubs and former council member of Lions Clubs International, Li Junzhang, Member of the Finance Committee of the Beijing Silk Road Cooperation and Development Association, Khorolsuren, Executive Director of Art Gate Co. Limited of Mongolia, and Dawatogtokh, Executive Director of the 311 Journalists Club of Mongolia, made a keynote speech respectively. Wang Hongtao, Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Mongolia, attended the event.



*At the Networking Event*

Before the event, CAFIU and other participating Chinese NGOs visited the Children Clinic of the No. 2 Central Hospital of Ulaanbaatar, which

was jointly built by China Foundation for Peace and Development and Khan Galdi Development Research Centre Association of Mongolia.



## **China Foundation for Peace and Development Held “Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity” Handover Ceremony of Humanitarian Aid Supplies to Myanmar**

From 22nd to 23rd July 2025, China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD) and the All-China Women’s Federation (ACWF), together with the Myanmar-China Exchange and Cooperation Association (MCECA), held a handover ceremony of humanitarian aid supplies to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw within the framework of the “Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity”. They donated daily necessities and personal care products worth RMB 500,000 to women, children and youth affected by the earthquake in Myanmar. Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs of

Myanmar, Dr. Soe Win, Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar and Dr. Thet Thet Zin, President of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, attended the ceremony and delivered speeches. Over 300 people participated in the event, including Zhang Zhonghua, Director of the Nay Pyi Taw General Office of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, representatives of Chinese and Myanmar NGOs, female students from the recipient schools and female community representatives.



*The “Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity” Handover Ceremony of Humanitarian Aid Supplies*

Soe Win stated that the “Pauk-Phaw” friendship between Myanmar and China remains lasting and strong. The Myanmar side is grateful to the Chinese government for immediately dispatching rescue teams to the disaster-stricken area to search for and rescue trapped individuals and provide emergency medical services following the devastating earthquake in Mandalay, making significant contributions to saving lives. The Chinese government and civil society organisations also provided substantial aid, including tents, temporary housing, food, daily necessities, medicine and medical supplies, gasoline and diesel fuel, as well

as mobile operating rooms, effectively supporting the reconstruction efforts in the disaster area. He believes that this donation activity, meticulously organised by Chinese NGOs, will further promote the development of women, the protection of children, and the growth of youth in Myanmar. He looks forward to the continuous shared economic and social development of both countries and greater benefits to the two peoples brought about by close cooperation between Myanmar and China at both government and non-government levels.



*Soe Win checked the supplies together with the donating and receiving organisations*

Jeng Phang Naw Taung and Thet Thet Zom expressed their gratitude to the ACWF and other Chinese and Myanmar NGOs for their special attention and sincere assistance to women, children and youth in Myanmar affected by the earthquake. They pledged to make active efforts

in distributing the supplies and delivering the sincere friendship of the Chinese people to the affected people. They looked forward to further strengthening exchanges and mutual learning with Chinese NGOs in various fields to jointly promote the continuous development of China-Myanmar

friendship.

Wang Lei, Director of the CFPD Office in Myanmar, and Li Bobo, Executive Chairman of the MCECA, stated in their speeches that both sides enjoy long-term cooperation in implementing public welfare projects and carrying out cultural exchange activities in Myanmar. After the Mandalay earthquake in Myanmar, both sides jointly raised relief supplies multiple times to help the affected

people resume their lives and production. In the future, they will continue to support the post-disaster reconstruction in the earthquake-stricken areas of Myanmar to the best of their ability, pooling the strength of Chinese and Myanmar NGOs to jointly promote people-to-people connectivity and actively contribute more to the building of a China-Myanmar community with a shared future.

## China-Cambodia Cultural Exchange Event within Framework of Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity Held in Phnom Penh

On 30th September, China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD) Cambodia Office and Cambodian Chinese Evolution Researchers Association (CCERA) co-hosted the Third China-Cambodia Bonding Cultural Exchange Event within the framework of Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity. Kim Pinon, Under Secretary

of State at Cambodia's Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, Kao Muythong, Deputy Director of the Office of the Second Vice-President of the National Assembly, Heng Kamsan, Principal of the Fine Arts High School, Chea Munyrit, President of CCERA and Wang Yahui, Director of CFPD Cambodia Office attended the event and delivered speeches.



Kim Pinon stated that this event focuses on “Mid-Autumn Festival and Chinese traditions” and marks a new chapter in people-to-people exchanges between Cambodia and China. Today’s event is not only an important moment for cultural exchanges but also a vivid testament to the people-to-people connectivity between the two countries. CFPD is effectively fulfilling its social responsibility in Cambodia and can provide more substantial support to the Fine Arts High School in cultivating artistic talents and other areas. He expressed hope for deepening cooperation with more Chinese friends in the future and implementing practical “small yet beautiful” projects to better serve students and benefit young people.

Wang Yahui said that the China-Cambodia Cultural Exchange Event as a series of events held within the framework of Silk Road People-to-People Connectivity aims to promote people-to-people cultural exchanges between China and Cambodia and enhance people-to-people connectivity. For the Chinese people, the Mid-Autumn Festival is a time for family reunion. On the night, people admire the moon, eat mooncakes, express their longing for distant relatives, and pray for a happy and fulfilling life. Moon admiring is also a shared cultural custom between the two peoples of China and Cambodia. Cambodian people also have a tradition of worshipping the Moon Goddess and eating flat rice during the Moon Festival. Sharing the same bright moon and praying for good fortune and health, this event vividly reflects the

geographical proximity, emotional bond, and cultural integration between the Chinese and Cambodian peoples. “Today’s event is not only a cultural exchange but also a continuation of friendship. We hope that young people from China and Cambodia will grow into a force of cementing China-Cambodia friendship and promoting world peace and development”, said Wang.

Heng Khamsan said that Cambodia and China boast a long history of bilateral relations. “Today, the flute and pipa performances given by Chinese and Cambodian musicians and our students are not only a microcosm of the cultural exchanges between the two countries but also efforts of implementing the Global Civilisation Initiative. Music has enabled us to deepen our understanding of unity, friendship, and cooperation”, said Heng.

At the event, Chea Munyryth delivered a speech entitled “Mid-Autumn Festival and Cambodia-China Friendship”. Chinese and Cambodian students performed traditional dances together. Guests enjoyed mooncakes, welcoming the Mid-Autumn Festival in a rich cultural atmosphere.

Around 500 representatives from institutions including the Cambodia-China University of Technology and Science, the Confucius Institute at the Royal Academy of Cambodia, the Civil Society Alliance Forum of Cambodia, and the International Affairs Department of the Cambodia-China Friendship Youth House participated in the event.

## Characters: A Bond Connecting Cultures

### ---*China Tour: Anyang Moments* Themed Event Held in Yinxu Museum

On the morning of 13th September, the themed event *Characters: A Bond Connecting Cultures---China Tour: Anyang Moments* was held at Yinxu Museum (Museum of the Ruins of the Shang Dynasty). The event was co-hosted by the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and Anyang Municipal People's Government, with support from China Cultural Heritage Foundation and Xiling Seal Art Society, and co-organised by the Committee on Cultural Exchanges of CNIE, the Foreign Affairs Office of Anyang Municipal People's Government, and the Culture, Radio, Television, Sports and Tourism Bureau of Anyang Municipal People's Government. Lu Kang, Vice-Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC), Zhang Min, Member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Henan Provincial Committee and Vice-Governor of the Henan Provincial People's Government, Louis Sissoko, Presiding Officer of the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), Ian J. Marshall, Ambassador of Grenada to China, Yuan Jiajian, Party Secretary of the CPC Anyang Municipal Committee, Richard Cox, Deputy Consul-General of the British Consulate-General in Wuhan attended the event. Around 150

representatives from over 30 countries including experts, scholars, head of civil society organisations, think tanks, enterprises, universities as well as international students participated in the event.

In his speech, Lu Kang emphasised that amid accelerating global changes and a complex international landscape, exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations play an increasingly vital role in enhancing mutual understanding, mutual trust, bridging divides, and resolving conflicts. The event aimed at appreciating the profound heritage and contemporary value of the Chinese civilisation and actively implement the Global Civilisation Initiative.

He said that IDCPC and CNIE are ready to take this event as an opportunity to support Anyang in building multi-level international exchange networks, expanding international cooperation in various fields, and creating a new IP for promoting China's fine traditional culture, so as to contribute to implementing the Global Civilisation Initiative, fostering people-to-people connectivity, and building a community with a shared future for mankind.



Zhang Min highlighted that as the cradle of the Chinese nation and the Chinese civilisation, Henan has been thoroughly implementing Xi Jinping Thought on Foreign Affairs, earnestly implementing the Global Development Initiative (GDI) by fully upholding its six key principles, continuously deepening the economic, trade, and cultural exchanges with the rest of the world, aiming at

facilitating practical and in-depth cooperation within the framework of the GDI. She noted that under the guidance of the IDCPC, Henan province will further strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the international civil society, sharing development opportunities and jointly creating a prosperous future based on deepening mutual understanding and people-to-people connectivity.



The Roundtable session was moderated by Wang Xiaohui, Editor-in-Chief of China.org.cn. The discussion revolved around two major themes: The Code of Millennium-old Civilisation and its Contemporary Value, and International Cultural Exchanges Under the Framework of the Global

Development Initiative. Chinese and overseas guest speakers, including Liu Chengyong, Director of China National Archives of Publications and Culture engaged in a fascinating discussion on topics from history to the future, from theory to practice, and from China to the world.



The Thematic Show session is also fascinating. Through the time-traveling story of King Wen of Zhou Dynasty, *The Book of Changes and the Four Global Initiatives* vividly interpreted the deep alignment between the Four Global Initiatives and the philosophical concepts of The Book of

Changes, such as “moving with the times”, “close links between safety and danger”, “exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations”, and “orderly rules”, which fully showcased the resonance between Chinese wisdom and global issues.



The second show *A Glimpse of Civilisations Through Costume* was set against the backdrop of the Huan River (Yinxu’s nearby waterway). It presented the splendid heritage of Chinese attire from the Shang Dynasty to the Ming Dynasty,

combining the Chinese character culture and the aesthetics of Chinese costume, thus delivered an immersive experience of the integration of ancient civilisation and modern fashion.



*Sunlight Illuminating the Dwelling Place—The Code of Oracle Bone Inscription of Anyang* tells a story that transcends 3000 years. It integrated the oracle bone script meaning of "安" (ān, meaning "safety" depicted as "a woman under a roof, symbolising a safe home") and "阳" (yáng, meaning "sunlight," symbolising brightness) into

the characters' fates. It narrated a touching love story of longing, deeply revealing the eternal wishes of ancient people for family safety, a bright life and national peace. It was concluded with the line: This is Anyang, a name carved in oracle bones and bathing in sunlight.



*AI video---Symbol System Transcending the Millenium-old Civilisation: The New Dwelling in the New Era*, adopted the concept of Anyang's invitation letter as a love letter from ancient civilisation to the world as a narrative thread. It leveraged cutting-edge AI visual technology to take viewers on an immersive, time-travelling journey spanning 3,000 years—from the mysterious strokes of oracle bone script to the dazzling lights

of a modern city, from the cultural roots of Yinxu to the development of the high-tech zone. The video comprehensively showcased Anyang's past and present, civilisation and technology, rapid urban development as well as people's happy life. It highlighted Anyang's profound history and innovative vitality, extending a grand digital invitation letter to the world.



Children from the China National Children's Art Troupe International Choir sang *Light Up the Future and Auld Lang Syne*. The international delegates spontaneously joined the children on stage, smiling

as they blended into the sea of young voices, performing a heartwarming, cross-border, and intergenerational musical piece.



*China Tour: City Moments* is a brand event launched by the Committee on Cultural Exchanges of CNIE. It aims to support local economic and social development, create new international

communication IP, promote exchanges and mutual learning among civilisations. The event series have been successfully held twice—in Quanzhou and Anyang, generating positive feedbacks.

## Chinese Civil Society Organisations Held Side Events at the 2025 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

On 16th July, the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), together with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Beijing International Exchange Association, the Peaceland Foundation, Shandong Tongshan Children's Welfare Public Welfare Development Centre and other organisations co-hosted two side events during the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The two side events titled "Inclusive and Evidence-Based Pathways for Achieving Transformative Development in Emerging Countries" and "Promoting Ethical Technology: Youth Driven, Science-Based Solutions for Sustainable Development" respectively. The side events invited representatives from UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Department of Global Communication, Youth Office, UN-Women and other institutions, representatives from the Permanent Missions of Dominica, Serbia, Timor-Leste and other countries to the United Nations, heads of non-governmental organisations, think tanks, experts and youth the United representatives from the United States, the United Kingdom and other countries. The design and arrangement of side events followed international trend. Exchanges during the side

events were valuable and productive.

The participants shared their experience and thinking from different perspectives. Zhu Jingfang, Research Fellow of CNIE, introduced Chinese NGOs' practice in implementing the Global Development Initiative and Sustainable Development Goals with the theme of "Making the Global Development Initiative Benefit Every Country: Case Studies of Chinese NGOs in Advancing UN Sustainable Development Goals". Rushmi Banga, Chief of the Development Research Branch of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, focused on "Promoting Inclusive Partnerships: Multi-Stakeholder Strategies to Empower the Marginalised in Emerging Economies" and explored how to empower marginalised groups in emerging economies through diversified cooperation. Fred S. Teng, President of America China Public Affairs Institute, shared the positive role of Chinese NGOs in international exchanges with the theme of "Crossing the Border and Building a Dream for the Future: the Transformative Force of Chinese Organisations". Guo Jieni, Secretary General of the Beijing International Exchange Association, focused on "BRICS and Beyond: Reimagining

Multistakeholder Cooperation through Civil Society Innovation” and analysed the value of non-governmental organisation innovation to multilateral cooperation. Anita Bhatia, former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, discussed “Empowering Women, Transforming Societies: Bridging Gaps for a Sustainable Future”, emphasising the importance of women in social transformation and sustainable development. Li Xiao, Chairman of Shandong Tongshan Children’s Welfare and Public Welfare Development Centre, shared the practical experience of promoting children’s development through art and community participation with the theme of “Investing in Childhood: Empowering Children through Art and Community Engagement”. Danny

Haiphong, American left-wing independent journalist and social activist, shared his thoughts on cross-cultural communication and development based on field research with the theme of “Bridging Cultures through Journalism: Field Insights from Ethnic Minority Regions”. Qiu Lili, Founder of the Peaceland Foundation, shared the practice of NGOs in contributing to sustainable development goals with the theme of “Chinese NGOs’ Participation in Global Sustainable Development Solutions”. Thomas G. Hedberg, Executive Director of the International Medical Crisis Response Alliance, shared the important contribution of technological innovation to the protection of rights and interests of vulnerable groups with the theme of “Tech Ethics in Humanitarian Emergencies: How AI Can Serve the Most Vulnerable”.



The two side events vividly demonstrated Chinese NGOs' positive contribution to the global sustainable development through experience sharing and provided new ideas for more inclusive global development cooperation.

During the side event, CNIE also held a photo exhibition "Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations: Chinese NGOs' Contributions to SDGs: Stories from Grassroots to Global (II)", attracting representatives from various countries.



## **Chinese NGOs Held Side Event during the 60th Session of the UN Human Rights Council**

During the 60th session of the UN Human Rights Council, the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), China Ethnic Minorities Association for External Exchanges, Universal Rights Group, and organisations from China and abroad, co-hosted the side event titled “Equality, Human Rights, and Inclusive Development” on the 22nd September at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Nearly 100 participants from China and abroad engaged in in-depth discussions on the role and contribution of NGOs in global human rights governance and inclusive development. Representatives from countries including Venezuela, India and Spain, as well as heads of various NGOs, experts and scholars also attended the event.

The participants shared their insights and experiences on human rights protection. The representative from CNIE introduced the Mobile Surgery Unit and China’s first civil Medical Rescue Vessel, illustrating Chinese NGOs’ efforts in promoting international people-to-people cooperation and protect the right to health in developing countries. The representative from

the Universal Rights Group emphasised the significance of placing the right to development at the core of international agenda, particularly for the Global South. The representative from the China Ethnic Minorities Association for External Exchanges shared NGOs’ contribution in safeguarding the right to development of ethnic minorities. The Member of Kowloon City District Council of Hong Kong SAR presented practices of human rights protection in Hong Kong SAR. The representative from Asociación AIDHDES noted that the Global Governance Initiative offers an approach to address current asymmetries in global human rights governance. The representative from the National Association of Vocational Education of China underscored the importance of vocational education in realising the right to development and shared their experiences. The representative from Sikh Human Rights Group shared his view on the role of civil society in promoting inclusive development.

During the side event, CNIE also held the photo exhibition “Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations: Chinese NGOs’

Contributions to SDGs: Stories from Grassroots to Global (III)", which showed the vivid practice of Chinese NGOs in contributing to global human

rights governance, attracting representatives from various countries.



## China's First Civilian Medical Rescue Ship PEACELAND Officially Launched

On the morning of 23rd September, China's first civilian medical rescue ship, the PEACELAND, was officially launched in Linhai, Taizhou City of Zhejiang Province, marking a historic step forward for China's civil society in participating in international humanitarian aid. Nearly 200 representatives

from the Secretariat of the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE), the People's Government of Taizhou Municipality, the People's Government of Linhai and around 20 NGOs across China, along with the ship's designers and builders, witnessed this milestone moment.





As the first civilian medical rescue ship of China, the PEACELAND is 100.15 metres long with a displacement of 5,000 tons and a range of 15,000 kilometres. It represents a significant step and concrete practice of CNIE in guiding and supporting Chinese NGOs to participate in exchanges and cooperation in international affairs. From research and feasibility studies to project approval and construction, the project took over five years and was carried out by the Beijing Peaceland Foundation. Equipped with complete

medical facilities including laboratories, X-ray and ultrasound rooms and operating theatres, the ship can accommodate 50 crew members plus medical and rescue volunteers. For rescue operations, the ship can carry over 1,000 tons of disaster relief supplies and has a helicopter platform. As the first large-scale public welfare ship with medical, rescue, and training functions in China or even in the world, it can be considered a fully functional “mobile hospital on the sea”.





In the near future, the PEACELAND will travel to Southeast Asia, the South Pacific, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America, proactively address the needs of people in countries participating in Belt and Road cooperation, and conduct public welfare activities such as medical treatment, emergency rescue, and disaster prevention training. It will also

enable Chinese NGOs to participate more directly, efficiently, and deeply in international humanitarian relief efforts. It innovatively provides international public goods with “Chinese cultural elements” and “Chinese design concepts”, contributing more civil society strength to the high-quality of the Belt and Road cooperation and heart-to-heart connectivity.

## The Opening Ceremony of the Ninth FIAP Photo Meeting Held in Changsha

On 23rd August, the opening ceremony of 9th FIAP Photo Meeting was held in Changsha. The event was jointly organised by the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP), the China Artistic Photography Society, the Foreign Affairs Office of Hunan Provincial People's Government, and the Hunan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism. More than 300 photographers from around the world attended the opening ceremony. Jiang Difei, Vice-Governor of Hunan Provincial People's Government, and Riccardo Busi, President of FIAP, attended the event and delivered speeches.

Jiang Difei pointed out that photography is a frozen moment in time and a bridge for mutual learning among civilisations. This meeting is a grand event listed in the action plan of the Global Civilisations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting, and it is a great honour for Hunan to host this event. Hunan boasts a profound cultural heritage. Generations of Hunan people have left indelible marks in the long history. Entering the new era, Hunan is building a highland of reform and opening up in the inland of China with a more open and innovative attitude, writing a new chapter of revitalisation and transformation.

Millions of people are rewriting their destinies in the spring breeze of the times, filling this land with the power of progress. With a beautiful ecology, Hunan enjoys the harmonious coexistence of man and nature, which manifests the Eastern wisdom of the unity of man and nature. We look forward to photographers capturing the unique charm of Hunan through their lenses and witnessing the exchange between Chinese and foreign civilisations.

Riccardo Busi pointed out that this Meeting brings together 315 photographers from 40 countries. Although we live in an era of rapid image flow, we build bridges of communication through creating and sharing our works. During this event, we will jointly explore Hunan, a land with beautiful scenery, rich culture, and hospitable people, allowing the beautiful values of humanity to shine through exchanges.

According to the hosts, the 9th FIAP Photo Meeting was held in Hunan from August 22nd to September 1st. The meeting includes an opening ceremony, an international photography exhibition, and a series of other activities. Photographers from around the world also held "Discovering Hunan"

field trips and creative activities in areas including Changsha, Zhangjiajie and Xiangxi Prefecture. They used their lenses to vividly showcase the urban

landscape, ethnic customs and natural scenery of Hunan Province, so as to present a magnificent picture of the beautiful province to the world.



# The Eleventh Nishan Forum on World Civilisation Held in Shandong Province



From 9th to 10th July, the Eleventh Nishan Forum on World Civilisation was held in Nishan, Qufu, Shandong Province, the birthplace of Confucius. This year's forum, themed "Our Diverse World, Our Shared Values—Civilisational Relationships and Global Modernisation", features dialogues on six key topics: the origins of civilisations and future development, the global significance and contemporary value of Confucian culture, fostering mutual benefits in the process of global modernisation, the role of family and social

development from a civilisational perspective, the development of artificial intelligence and the trajectory of human civilisation, and Qilu culture in the context of world civilisations. Focusing on the theme and topics, the Forum featured two keynote speeches, four high-level dialogues, eight panel dialogues, and seven parallel forums. More than 560 dignitaries, scholars, and foreign diplomats based in China from over 70 countries participated in the Forum.



## US Choir Participates in China-US Youth Music Exchange Event in Shaanxi

From 6th to 9th July, at the invitation of the China Education Association for International Exchange, nearly 50 members of the One Voice Children's Choir from Utah, the United States, visited Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, to participate in a China-U.S. Youth Music Exchange Event. Accompanied by their Chinese peers, they sang songs and explored the city together, creating a harmonious ensemble of friendship and culture. These youngsters visited

public cultural institutions, tourist attractions and theme streets in Shaanxi, immersing themselves in the charm of the traditional Chinese culture including intangible cultural heritage and cultural relics. They also joined their Xi'an friends in singing to enhance friendship between Chinese and American youth for a better future of China-U.S. friendship.



## “Youth Development for a Shared Future” Summer Camp Held in Beijing

From 7th to 12th July, the China Soong Ching Ling Foundation hosted the “Youth Development for a Shared Future” Summer Camp. Coming from 12 countries including Armenia, Gambia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Oman, the Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Thailand and Uzbekistan, about eighty teenagers and their teachers participated in the event. Through site visits and interactions, the students and their

teachers learned about the historical evolution of the Silk Road and the significance of the “Silk Road Spirit” in the modern world, experienced China’s economic and social development, history and culture, and witnessed technological innovation and application. The event helped to enhance mutual understanding and friendship in exchanges and unite the strength of the youth for building a better future.





