

Selected Papers of Beijing Forum 2010

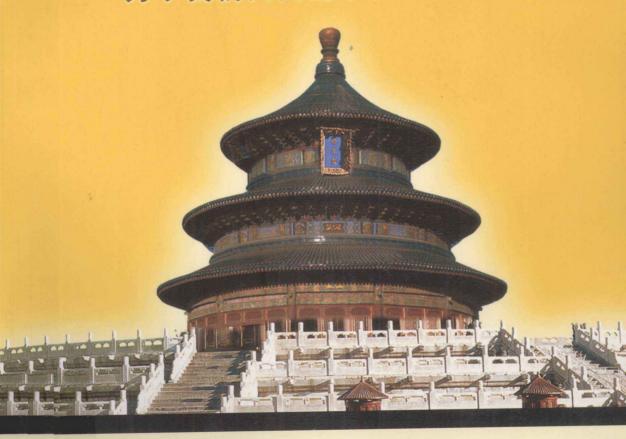
The Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All

- Commitments and Responsibilities for a Better World

北京论坛(2010)论文选集

文明的和谐与共同繁荣

——为了我们共同的家园:责任与行动





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程郁缓 谷雪 编 Cheng Yuzhui, Gu Xue



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电子邮箱: fd@pup. pku. edu. cn

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Hao Ping

Vice Minister of Education, P. R. China

Distinguished guests and scholars, Ladies and gentlemen, Good morning.

I am greatly honored to attend the opening ceremony of Beijing Forum 2010. Beijing Forum is an annual event for scholars of humanities and social sciences from home and abroad. It has enhanced international exchanges of China's higher education, promoted development and prosperity of China's humanities and social science and become an important platform for cross-cultural communication and dialogues among civilizations. State Councilor of China, Ms. Liu Yandong met with representatives of the Forum and made a speech for the future development of the Forum. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, speaking highly of the Forum, also sent greetings to Beijing Forum 2010.

The world today is experiencing unprecedented development, transformation and adjustment. Multi-polarization and economic globalization grow vigorously; science and technologies are undergoing breakthroughs; and industries are showing new trends. Common interests and interdependence of countries are increasing, especially when facing global challenges such as climate change, financial security, terrorism, food security, severe natural disasters, transnational crimes, energy security and so on. The fate of people around the world has never been linked so closely and peace, development and cooperation have never been demanded so badly.

With the main theme of "The Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All—Commitments and Responsibilities for a Better World", Beijing Forum 2010 expresses great concern for many important issues in the world today. As the biggest developing country and emerging economy, the future of China is closely

linked to the world. In the new historical period, the Chinese government put forward some international relations theories like "harmonious world", "mutual benefit" and "to expand humanity exchanges", projecting an image of responsible power. The harmonious world should be a world of dialogues and cooperation with diversification and tolerance. All the countries and regions in the world, no matter what historical traditions, cultural backgrounds, religious beliefs, social systems, values or development stages they have, differ in one way or another. That's why human civilizations are so diversified. We should work together to create a fair and rational international political and economic order.

Education, as an important force for constructing harmonious world, shoulders crucial missions of training talents, spreading thoughts and shaping the society and plays an indispensible role in inheriting and innovating process of mankind. In July this year, the Chinese government held a national education meeting and promulgated 2010 - 2020 National Outline for Mid- and Long-Term Educational Reform and Development, drawing a blueprint for the development of education in the next ten years. The Outline proposes a working guidance: "to give priority to education, to place importance on training, to reform and innovate, to promote justice and to improve quality". It sets the strategic goal to realize education modernization, build a learning society and become an advanced country in human resources. It stresses that each level of governments should give priority to the development of education and investment in education. To be specific, we should make universal preschool education to high school education; further enhance popularization of higher education; provide fair education which benefits all the citizens and do not allow any school dropouts due to family financial difficulties or problems in study; provide more quality education to meet the need of diversified education of the public; build overall life-long education to make sure what they learn is practical; improve a vigorous modern educational system with Chinese characteristics and world level. Chinese government has also decided to increase education investment to 4% of the GDP by 2012; to improve teachers' teaching abilities and their treatment; to speed up education informatization and modernization in teaching contents and methods.

The Outline pays special attention to high-level educational exchanges in broad fields. We should learn from advanced educational ideas and experiences in the world, bring in high quality educational resources and attract

more renowned experts and scholars to do teaching, researching and management work in China, bring in talented people and research teams from abroad in a planned way and encourage Chinese higher education institutions to set up overseas branches. The Outline also points out that we should promote cultural exchanges and increase understanding of different countries and cultures. We should strengthen our cooperation with international organizations like UNESCO to build a platform for high-level educational exchanges, cooperation and policies. All the above provides great opportunities to deepen cooperation with overseas education institutions. And Chinese education will achieve healthy, fast, overall, scientific and sustainable development in the ten years to come.

Beijing Forum has been held successfully for six years and become a significant event for scholars to exchange ideas and learn from each other. We would like to thank Mr. Chey Jae-won, Vice Chairman of SK Group and Kim Jae Youl, President of the Korean Foundation for Advanced Studies for their generous support for Beijing Forum.

Finally, on behalf of the Chinese Ministry of Education I would like to extend my warm congratulations for the opening of Beijing Forum 2010 and my gratitude toward our friends from home and abroad who have supported and helped us. The Chinese Ministry of Education will actively support Chinese education as always and by carrying out the Outline we will expand international exchanges in various forms and make our greatest contribution to the harmony and common prosperity of world civilizations.

Thank you.

Chey Jae-won

Vice Chairman, SK Group

Honorable President of the China Society for Human Rights Studies Luo Haocai,

Honorable Chairman of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Chen Haosu,

Honorable Vice Minister of Education Hao Ping,

Honorable President of Beijing University Zhou Qifeng,

And distinguished guests,

I am greatly honored once again to be part of the Beijing Forum. And I am especially pleased to be back in the great and happy city of Beijing —a city that never loses her ability to surprise and delight her visitors, not only with her world-class physical infrastructure and dazzling, ever-expanding skyline, but also with her soul, which is nourished by China's vibrant culture and rich history.

I believe that this harmonious marriage of body and soul is the true source of Beijing's greatness and happiness. The Romans called it "Mens Sana in Corpore Sano." In ancient Chinese wisdom, it is "xing shen ju bei (形神具备)." We could translate both into English as "A healthy soul in a healthy body."

The people of Beijing proudly exemplify this wisdom. They are a compassionate people eager to communicate the content of their souls and coordinate the efforts of their bodies to continuously make their city greater.

And I believe that such communication of the soul and coordination of the body is the key to happiness for an individual, for a country, or for our global community as much as for a city.

So let this Forum draw inspiration from the people of Beijing to help us recognize that progress on the issues we will discuss—the environment,

health care, education, global economics, and interfaith dialogue-depends equally on both physical and spiritual contributions.

The spiritual contribution is communication; we must speak with open minds and open hearts; we must admit our weaknesses as well as our strengths; and we must respect each other's cultural differences.

The physical contribution is coordination; we must synchronize our efforts and share our material resources with generosity.

But is such open-hearted communication and generous coordination really possible? Why should people from different nations, different cultures, and different backgrounds be willing to share ideas and resources with strangers from far away?

It is because Happiness for each of us—as individuals, as residents of cities around the world, and as global citizens—depends on living in Harmony with those around us. And such Harmony is not possible unless those around us are also Happy.

No man, nor city, nor country, nor civilization is an island. I hope that this Forum will teach us that although we may be separated physically, we depend on one another for our Happiness. We are separated in body but united in spirit, and we must find Harmony amidst our Diversity. That is why our Global Community will not be happy if we do not achieve Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All.

I believe that once we realize that Harmony with others and Happiness for Others is essential for our own Happiness, then our Responsibilities to one another will no longer feel like a burden, but like a Commitment that we undertake voluntarily and willingly. Open-hearted communication and generous coordination will become integral parts of who we are as human beings who strive, in whatever way we can, to act as "our brothers' keepers."

I hope that the Beijing Forum can serve as a proving ground for the power of coordination and communication to bring about a Happy, Harmonious, and Prosperous Global Community.

Thank you.

Michael Ussery

Former US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

Good morning.

It's a great honor to be here today at this prestigious forum, to be among such distinguished participants, and especially to be here today with the President. And I would also like to give special thanks to Peking University President Qifeng, the Secretary General Yan and to all those here at the panel today.

I don't think if you look around the world, you could find a grander and more noble forum than we are at today. You can find forums on many topics, all issues that confront us, but nobody can be thinking bigger, grander, more strategically than this, Beijing Forum—"Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All" thinking globally, about the responsibilities and commitments we all share. Nothing is bigger than talking about civilizations, not just talking in terms of nations. When talking in terms of nations, nations often talk about trying to find peace, or the absence of conflict. But if nations get together to discuss the future of our civilizations, they talk of building a better world, cooperating under grander schemes, and the harmony that comes from that cooperation.

If we look back at previous conferences we find many other distinguished people who talked at this podium before myself, including the former President George Herbert Walker Bush, whom I had the pleasure to serve for as the ambassador in Morocco during his term of office, and Under Secretary General of the United Nations Joseph Verner Reed, who was actually a mentor of mine in my early years in the US State Department. They all have great hopes for this conference. Also I want to send greetings from Fawn Wang, who is Assistant Secretary at Yale University and we all know how willing they have been to embrace and to support Beijing Forum every year.

What struck me about this conference is that it's the only international conference I've been to this year which encompasses politics, economics, and eternal spiritual and ethical matters. I think this is one of the great reasons why we are all here today. As we all know, we are currently going through an economic crisis. One of the aspects that bothers me most about the crisis, is what I consider to be the increasing gap between the haves and have-nots. To use a psychiatric term, we all live in a bipolar world. In some parts of the world we are developing genetic cures that will be available to people in the next ten or twenty years. In another parts of the world we are still finding ourselves unable to fulfill basic human needs, provide the vaccination that people need, and reduce rates of infant mortality. We are going to build great water systems and desalination plants with billions of dollars; but we are still unable to provide clean water to many people in developing countries.

And while we build marvelous beautiful cities, let me call your attention to refugee affairs. Some refugees have been in North African and South Asian refugee camps for over 35 years now. This was never the purpose of these camps. Refugee camps are always supposed to be temporary places of refuge. And now we have people who were born in refugee camps and have since become parents. We have people who have never known life outside refugee camps.

It is this kind of imbalance in the modern world that most concerns me, and I would like to draw attention to it in today's great panel. I'm here with two main goals. One is to emphasize the importance of cooperation. I'm very pleased this year's theme is "Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All," while also addressing the responsibilities and commitments that we all share. That nations around the world share. It's been said that there are four "E"s that concern the development of civilizations—environment, ecology, economics and my favorite, education, which I think has been undervalued and underfunded in global development for a long time now.

Over this year, I have gone down several times to Haiti, and I've been working down there. And it's a situation where the world came together for a moment and they did a remarkable job during the rescue period, that is to say the first weeks after the earthquake. However, now it's become a study of failure and of our inability to plan and deliver sustainable results. So I hope we will keep in mind that if you look at Haiti and all the projections for the future, it will still be the poorest nation in our hemisphere by the middle of the century and no matter how many millions are spent on infrastructure, we will not be able to turn things around and provide a long term educational system, one that provides for the needs that people have there. I'd like to say that I believe the best thing we can export to any country is education and knowledge.

Thank you.

Zhou Qifeng

President, Peking University

Honorable President of the China Society for Human Rights Studies Luo Haocai,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

On the occasion of Beijing Forum 2010, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all the guests, scholars and friends and express my sincere gratitude toward those who have shown great concern and support for Beijing Forum on behalf of Peking University.

Beijing Forum always advocates equal dialogues among different civilizations and cultures on a worldwide academic platform, so as to promote harmony of civilizations through combining academic research and social advancement. The theme "Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All—Commitments and Responsibilities for a Better World" has much connotation for us to explore and discuss. On one hand, symbolically, homeland is where the heart of busy modern people is and stands for the structure of feeling and ethics that keep people together. On the other hand, realistically, homeland is the community and city where we live. Thus, the concept of homeland involves aesthetics, ethics, environmental science, economic transition, city planning and public policies. Crisis of homeland needs to be solved in a multidiscipline approach. Particularly, homeland is also closely related to values representing harmony in eastern cultures. Only by properly handling the relationship between self developments and respecting nature can we achieve the ideal of great harmony.

"Our common homeland" not only refers to abundant illustrations about the ultimate fate of human beings in different civilizations but also infers that no country is alone in solving problems in a world of increasing interdependence. Only

all the countries strengthen cooperation, can every global citizen share safe resources and beautiful environment equally and finally protect our common homeland.

Therefore, Beijing Forum of this year hopes to increase dialogues and communication among different civilizations, to absorb wisdom from classic works and historical experiences and to advocate interdisciplinary exchanges so as to draw up plans for actions in the future. I believe in the following days, scholars and experts can find out more common views of human civilizations to make contribution to building harmonious society and homeland.

Ladies and gentlemen, over the past seven years, Beijing Forum has developed to one of the world class international academic conferences in humanities and social sciences and an important platform for scholars around the world to exchange ideas. This achievement is benefited from scholars' academic sincerity and searches for truth. Here on behalf of Peking University and the Organizing Committee of Beijing Forum I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to those who have offered support and assistance to Beijing Forum's development.

I wish Beijing Forum 2010 a great success. Thank you.

Global Challenges; Global Imbalances; Responsibilities for All

Ernesto Zedillo

Former President of United Mexican States

Member of the Trilateral Commission

Member of the Foundation Board of the World Economic Forum

Director of the Yale Center for the Study of Globalization, Yale University

I am honored to be part of the Beijing Forum 2010. Professor Richard Levin, President of Yale University, asked me to convey to you all his warmest regards and sincere wishes for a successful Forum. I celebrate that this year's event is convened with a theme that encompasses key concepts for the present and future of our planet. The words "civilization," "harmony," "prosperity," "commitment," and "responsibility," when put together in the idea that guides this assembly, tell us a lot about how lucky we are to have this as our time but also how extensive is the onus we bear.

Unquestionably we have inherited from our immediate predecessors a level of progress unimaginable only a few generations ago. Our onus consists of doing what it takes so that by the end of the present century our descendents will think of us the same way we now think of our elders. For this to happen, however, we ourselves, and our children will have to preserve what we have now, make it better, and — very importantly — make it accessible to many more billions of people.

This task is not trivial. True, we are now on a trend of scientific and technological advancement that seems to be unlimited. We possess an amazing physical and human infrastructure. And very significantly, the unprecedented degree of interaction, interconnectedness and interdependence, known nowadays as globalization, has become a formidable lever for economic growth and development, to which China's contemporary experience attests.

Paradoxically, globalization, as much as it drives progress, also multiplies the complexity of the challenges to be surmounted if we truly want