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H. K. Chang, an internationally renowned scholar in biomedical engineering, had taught in several well-known universities in the U.S., Canada and France for over twenty years prior to becoming Founding Dean of School of Engineering at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Dean of School of Engineering at University of Pittsburgh. He was appointed President of City University of Hong Kong in 1996 and retired in 2007. Since 2007, Professor Chang has taught general education courses at universities in both China and elsewhere. He is Honorary Professor at Peking University and Tsinghua University, Honorary Chairman of Council of Shandong University as well as Honorary Director of Institute of Silk Road Studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Professor H. K. Chang has published over 100 scientific papers, two volumes of research treatises, and a dozen Chinese or English books on civilizations, cultures and education.

Professor Chang is Foreign Member of the Royal Academy of Engineering (U.K.) and Member of the International Eurasian Acadamy of Sciences. He was decorated by the French Government as Chévalier dans l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur in 2000 and as Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques in 2009; appointed Justice of the Peace in 1999 and conferred a Gold Bauhinia Star in 2002 by the Government of Hong Kong SAR. He has also served as Chairman of Cultural and Heritage Commission, a member of Council of Advisors on Innovation and Technology, as well as a member of Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission of HKSAR.

张信刚,国际知名生物医学工程专家。曾在美国、加拿大、法国著名大学任教二十余年,并任香港科技大学工学院创院院长及美国匹兹堡大学工学院院长。1996年出任香港城市大学校长。2007年退休后在中外大学讲授人文通识课程;是北京大学和清华大学的名誉教授、山东大学校董会名誉主席、北京外国语大学丝绸之路研究院名誉院长。

张教授曾发表科学论文百余篇,编辑研究专著两册,出版关 于文明、文化及教育的中英文著作十余部。

张信刚先生是英国皇家工程院外籍院士、国际欧亚科学院院士;2000年获法国政府颁授"国家荣誉军团骑士勋章",2009年获颁"学术棕榈司令勋章";1999年获中国香港特别行政区政府任命为"太平绅士",2002年获颁"金紫荆星章"。曾任香港文化委员会主席、香港科技创新顾问委员会委员、香港司法人员推荐委员会委员。

Foreword

As early as 1990, Professor Chang Hsin-kang and his wife relinquished their respective overseas academic platforms and returned to Hong Kong, determined to participate in founding the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Much earlier, I had learned of the man but our first encounter did not occur until the end of 1995 when I was serving as Council Chairman for City University of Hong Kong (CityU). I appointed Professor Chang as President of CityU, which means our friendship has a history of some twenty-two years.

Once Professor Chang took up the post of CityU President in 1996, we held monthly indepth exploratory discussions about the University's development. He advocated establishing a Chinese Civilisation Centre, a School of Creative Media and the implementation of a general education curriculum, all proposals that I strongly appreciated. During my tenure as Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Professor Chang also served as Chairman of Culture and Heritage Commission of Hong Kong. His recommendations on policies to develop and position Hong Kong culture and the promotion of exchanges between Chinese and foreign cultures are still held in high regard today. Overall, he has made significant contributions to the development of education and culture in Hong Kong.

序言

张信刚教授和夫人早在1990年就各自放弃海外的学术平台, 毅然回到香港,参与创建香港科技大学。我早闻信刚教授之名, 但初次见面还是在1995年底,当时我担任香港城市大学校董会主 席,聘请信刚教授担任城大校长。由此开始,我和信刚教授相交 相知,屈指一数已经22年了。

1996年信刚教授履新城大校长之后,我们每个月都要为城大的发展建设深入探讨。他提出建立中国文化中心、创意媒体学院,推行通识教育等建议,我都深为赞赏。我担任香港特别行政区行政长官期间,信刚教授还担任香港文化委员会主席,就香港的文化定位、发展政策和中外交流等提出了至今仍为人所推崇的灼见。总的说,他为香港的教育、文化发展贡献良多。

In 2014, I initiated the establishment of a non-governmental think tank known as "Our Hong Kong Foundation," and Professor Chang gladly accepted an invitation to take part. He also served as Honorary Director of the foundation's "China Institute," whose mission is to introduce and promote Chinese culture. As my good friend for over two decades, when Professor Chang asked me to write the foreword for this bilingual collection of his speeches, I gladly accepted.

Professor Chang is a person of wide-ranging interests, distinguished talent and diverse identities. In his youthful days, he was a budding scientist and a loyal, courageous activist on behalf of the "Defend the Diaoyu Islands Movement." In his middle age, he was an educator who loved both our country and Hong Kong. Since his retirement, he continues to "peruse ten thousand volumes and trek ten thousand miles" as a multifaceted scholar, a Silk Road traveller whose pen has not been stilled.

This collection comprises texts of twenty-five speeches delivered by the professor in English. They are divided into sections on Culture, Education and Growth & Development, which serves to highlight his profound cultivation of these fields and his insights into them. Via these talks, we can appreciate his heartfelt wishes for Hong Kong's future development and ardent hopes for its youth, his steadfast devotion to promoting Chinese traditional culture, his global vision and all-embracing ambition to enhance communication between China and the world.

Professor Chang epitomises the modest gentleman. True to his humble character, he has chosen the topic of his earliest academic lecture, "Selling Water to the River," as the title for this collection. In my opinion, these speeches are brimming with historical and cultural significance.

Tung Chee Hwa

2014年,我发起成立民间智库组织"团结香港基金",信刚教授欣然应邀参与,并同意担任旨在推介中华文化的中华学社的名誉社长。作为相交二十多年的老友,信刚教授嘱我为其英汉双语版的演讲集命序,当然义不容辞。

信刚教授兴趣宏大,才华卓著,有着多重的身份。他在青年时期即是崭露头角的科学家和忠肝义胆的保钓志士;中年时期是爱国爱港的教育家;退休之后仍然"读万卷书、行万里路",是丝绸之路上的行者,是笔耕不辍、著作等身的学者。

信刚教授这部演讲集收入 25 篇英文演讲,按照"谈文化""论教育""话成长"分为三个部分,显示了他在这三个领域的深厚修养和真知灼见。文中既有对香港未来发展的憧憬和对香港青年的殷切希望,又有推介中华传统文化的赤子之情,更不乏放眼世界前沿、沟通中国与世界的博大胸襟。

信刚教授是谦谦君子,他以他平生第一次学术演讲的题目《江 边卖水》作为这部演讲集的名称,实是过谦。在我看来,这些演 讲有着极其厚重的历史和文化分量。



Contents 目录

FOREWORD.	今	_

П

ON CULTURAL ISSUES 谈文化

The World Admiral Zheng He Discovered 论郑和下西洋时期的世界态势	3
What the Travels of Xuanzang and Ibn Battuta Tell Us 玄奘与伊本・白图泰远游的启示	35
Cultural Exchanges on the Silk Road 丝绸之路上的文化交流	51
Living Chinese Culture in Hong Kong 中国传统文化在香港	95
Tea and Coffee 茶与咖啡	107
A Long and Hard Look at China 从历史的视角细看中国	135
China and Pakistan: A Historical View 中国与巴基斯坦——历史回顾	175
Speech at the 25th Congregation at the Open University of Hong Kong 第25届香港公开大学学位颁授典礼致辞	189

ON EDUCATION 论教育

A Leading University in the Asia-Pacific Region 亚太地区的领跑高校	199
Modernization and Internationalization of Education: A Look at the Last 500 Years 教育的现代化和国际化——500年的历史回顾	209
Riding the Wave of Technology: Meeting the Critical Challenges to Higher Education in the 21st Century 乘科技之风——迎接21世纪高等教育的重大挑战	219
More Grows in the Garden than the Gardener Sows: On Models of Cultivating Creative Talent 有心栽花与无心插柳——创新人才培养模式	231
Knowledge Society and Semi-intellectuals 知识社会与半知识分子	251
Selling Water to the River! 江边壶水!	261

1(N GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT 话成长	
	Congregation Speeches at City University of Hong Kong (1996–2006) 香港城市大学历年学位颁授典礼校长致辞(1996—2006)	
	Only After You Learn Will You Realize There Is Much More to Learn 学而后知不足	285
	Life Has a Limit but Learning Is Boundless 生也有涯,学也无涯	295
	A "Brave New World" of High Technology 高科技的"美丽新世界"	303
	Academic and Cultural Exchange in the Past and the New Millennium 学术文化交流——回望过去,展望千禧	317
	Extensive Study, Accurate Inquiry, Careful Reflection, Clear Discrimination 博学、审问、慎思、明辨	329
	In the City, of the City, for the City 位于城市,属于城市,献于城市	337
	A Fiction of What the Future Holds for Today's Graduates 畅想美好未来	347
	Duty, Honor, Country 责任,荣誉,国家	355
	Go Confidently in the Direction of Your Dream, Live the Life You Have Imagined 怀自信追随梦想,尽心愿毋负此生	367
	A Tale of Two Murals 双壁画记	377
	The World Is Flat	

世界是平的

附录 张信刚:游走于文明之间

귟	

387

397

What the Trivials of Tangering and the Andreas Tell 15.

It Tallet A certificate Control for

Collected Environment in the fall Envirol

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The World Admiral Zheng He Discovered

Speech at the Public Seminar organized by the Departments of Political Science and of History at Bilkent University Ankara, Turkey, October 11, 2006

Introduction

In the early part of the 15th century (1405–1433), the Chinese explorer Zheng He embarked on a series of seven voyages west, taking with him a large fleet of ships and a multitude of officers and men. Whether judged in terms of the time involved, the scope of territories reached, or the amounts of men mobilized for the task, Zheng's voyages are clearly an event of key importance, both in the history of China and of the world. And yet, due to the subsequent ban on maritime trade with foreign countries imposed by the Chinese court, Zheng's achievements were soon to be forgotten; his heroic undertaking seemed to have had little serious impact on the world stage. When one leafs through world histories published in a variety of different countries, each records the seafaring achievements of Columbus, Vasco da Gama and Magellan, yet few mention Zheng He's voyages or the impact of his missions to the Southern and Western Oceans.

When judged objectively from the perspective of the different cultures of the world and the development of society in different regions, it must be admitted that Zheng He's seven voyages did not occupy a dominant or even mainstream position

论郑和下西洋时期的世界态势

在比尔肯特大学政治系及历史系合办公开研讨会上的演讲 土耳其安卡拉,2006年10月11日

引言

郑和于 15 世纪上半叶(1405—1433)率领大型舰队及众多官兵七次下西洋, 其时间跨度之长、到达地域之广、动员人数之众,绝对是中国及世界历史上的一件 大事。但这件大事不久便因中国朝廷的海禁政策而为人所遗忘;郑和的壮举似乎也 不曾在世界范围内产生重大的影响。翻阅各国出版的世界通史,每一本都叙述哥伦 布、达·伽马及麦哲伦的航海事迹,而没有几本提到郑和的航行或其出使南洋、西 洋的影响。

如果客观地从世界各种文化及各地区社会发展的角度来看,人们应该承认这样 一个论述:郑和七下西洋并没有在中国本身的历史发展中占据支配性甚至是主流的 in the historical development of China itself, since China at that time did not regard foreign trade as important, nor did it need to occupy foreign territories for purposes of emigration or plundering resources. Moreover, since Zheng He pursued the Ming dynasty's policy of peaceful diplomacy, the places his fleet reached did not change the course of their subsequent social, economic and cultural development because of any armed attack. In other words, whilst Zheng's voyages were an unprecedented achievement, to the world as a whole, they seem rather a low-key affair. They did not have the same kind of earth-shattering impact as Genghis Khan's earlier western conquests or Columbus's subsequent discovery of America. Nevertheless, this in no way means that people—and Chinese people in particular—should not remember Zheng He as a pioneering navigator and outstanding diplomat.

A hundred years ago, when the powerful maritime nations had carved up almost the entire world and China was fighting for its very survival, Liang Qichao and other scholars of the day revived and commemorated the memory of Zheng He's achievements. This was an act entirely appropriate in its historical context, for it served as a rallying cry to the Chinese people. Today, as we celebrate the six hundredth anniversary of Zheng He's voyages, China is entering a period of peaceful development and rich opportunity, and the ocean is of crucial importance to this development in the future. It thus seems particularly appropriate to commemorate Zheng He at this time.

In order to gain a clearer and more developed view of the world at the time of Zheng He's voyages to the west—a world that was still not fully understood by people of the time—the present paper seeks to provide an overview of key features or events of different regions in the world of Zheng's time, beginning with an account of China and East Asia and tracing west through to Europe. It will not discuss regions such as America, Oceania or sub-Saharan Africa, which had had little or no contact with the Eurasian continent.

China

China in the early years of the Ming dynasty was unquestionably the world's foremost power, whether considered in terms of the technology used in agricultural and 地位,因为当时的中国既不以对外贸易为重,更不须占领海外领土以进行移民或掠取资源。同时,因为郑和奉行明朝的和平外交路线,他的舰队所到的地方,也因此没有受到武力冲击而改变其后社会、经济与文化发展的轨迹。换句话说,郑和七下西洋虽是前所未有的壮举,但对整个世界来说,它显得很平静。它对世界历史的发展不曾产生像之前的成吉思汗西征或是之后的哥伦布发现美洲那样的震撼。然而,这绝不是说人们,尤其是我们中华民族,不应该纪念郑和这位航海先驱者与杰出外交家。

一百年前,正当强盛的海权国家几乎瓜分了全世界,而中华民族面临生死存亡之际,梁启超等学者重提郑和下西洋的事迹并予以纪念。这自有其历史的合理性,因为那是一个民族觉醒的信号。今天,当我们纪念郑和下西洋600周年的时候,中华民族正进入和平发展的机遇期,而海洋对我们今后的发展则具有重大的意义。所以今日纪念郑和,可谓恰逢其时。

为了对郑和下西洋时期的世界——一个当时人们还未曾普遍认识的世界——有一个更清晰而深入的看法,本文将简述当时世界各地区的某些重要特征或事件。陈述的次序由近而远,起自东亚中国,西至欧洲;一向与欧亚大陆交往较少或是没有交往的美洲、大洋洲及撒哈拉以南的非洲,就略去不述了。

中国

明朝初年的中国,无论从农业工业的生产技术、商业的兴旺、城乡人口的生活水平、文化的精致或是从军事力量来看,都毫无疑问居全世界第一。郑和航海时所