

Selected Papers of Beijing Forum 2012

The Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All

— Challenges and Opportunities: New Thinking in New Reality

北京论坛 (2012) 论文选集

文明的和谐与共同繁荣

——新格局·新挑战·新思维·新机遇



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北京大学北京论坛学术委员会 编

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Speech at the Opening Ceremony of Beijing Forum 2012

Yan Junqi

Vice Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee

Distinguished guests, Scholars, Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

I feel it a great honor to attend the opening ceremony of Beijing Forum 2012. First of all, I would like to extend sincere congratulations on the opening of this forum and warm welcome to distinguished guests and scholars present.

Beijing Forum, based on the core value embodied in the umbrella theme of “Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All”, gathers renowned scholars in humanities and social sciences from across the world and entrepreneurs of various industries to conduct in-depth discussion and communication on man’s living mode and civilization prospect. The Forum approaches a wide range of major problems confronting human society from diverse perspectives and proposes solutions accordingly, in a way to honor its duty and contribute wisdom conducive to harmonious development of society. Upholding the banner of harmony, the Forum essentially based on humanities and social sciences digs into social phenomena and sums up the experiences and lessons accumulated in social development through open and candid communication and academic discussion, in an endeavor to promote harmony of civilizations and prosperity for all. This speaks eloquently for the fact that the Forum’s organizers and scholars have deep concern for human society and a great sense of global responsibility. Through incessant efforts over the past nine years, the Forum has not only amassed sizable academic assets, but also given direct impetus to Sino-foreign exchanges and cooperation on higher education, contributing to development and prosperity of humanities and social sciences in China. Moreover, it has evolved into an important platform for cross-cultural communication and dialogue on civilization between scholars from China and beyond.

Today, the world is in the midst of great development, major reforms and drastic transformation, and the international situation is undergoing the extremely profound and complicated changes, which has led to further multi-polarization of the world and deepening economic globalization. Meanwhile, scientific and technological revolutions are bringing along new breakthroughs, and the IT applications exert increasing influences upon society. Under such circumstances, the international community is more inter-dependant and the emerging economies as well as developing countries are on the rise. Whether for a happy life and social stability at home, or for diplomacy, cultural construction is a pressing need. Culture, the moral basis for domestic development, answers the question about what values a country pursues. This edition of Beijing Forum, as suggested by the theme of "Challenges and Opportunities: New Thinking in New Reality", keeps abreast of the times and responds to the general concern of society. We have good reason to expect much from this forum.

I'm from China Association for Promoting Democracy. The membership of the association comprises many prestigious literati. As the participating party in state affairs, China Association for Promoting Democracy all along has a strong sense of responsibility for promoting exchanges among cultures in China and beyond. It is one of the reasons for my attending this forum. New development has given rise to a new pattern since the changing world situations exert profound influences upon and effect changes of the world pattern, bringing far-reaching influences upon development of various countries and impinging on the international relations. And attending the new pattern arise new challenges. Some of the existing theories and thoughts are too outmoded against the new world pattern since there emerge a series of social conflicts caused by the outmoded systems and policies. The grave challenges compel us to seek and seize new opportunities, explore new development mode and space, and open up a new prospect. Still, new opportunities go hand in hand with new challenges. The transformation and reform of the world pattern provides a historic opportunity for the establishment of a new, more fair and equitable international order. The international society has embarked on advancing the reform of the global governance structure, in the hope to form a new global governance system featuring a good balance between justice and efficiency through improving the exiting framework. Certainly, new opportunities require new thoughts. To

our mind, an overview of the changing international situations reveals that peace and development remain the themes today, which is reflected in the deepening international communication, exchanges and cooperation and the fact that seeking development and promoting cooperation in peace has become the common will and unswerving pursuit for all peoples of the world.

China is a big country trekking on the road of rejuvenation. More than a century of torture wreaked by war and poverty is behind us. We are in the process of rapid industrialization and urbanization. China has put forward the theory on peaceful development and harmonious development, specifically, whole-hearted devotion to development of various undertakings at home, maintenance of world peace and pursuit of common development of mankind. Therefore, the development we pursue is peaceful, open and win-win and enabled by cooperation. China aspires to develop itself through maintaining world peace and safeguard world peace through its development, so as to promote the building of a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity together with its counterparts. It is a strategic choice in compliance with the trend of the times and the vital interests of the Chinese nation, reflecting China's internal demand for sustainable development.

The consistent goal of Beijing Forum highly accords with the Chinese government's intention of strengthening cultural communication between China and the world. China—a sovereign state and a unified cultural entity—ever regarded its culture paramount in the prolonged imperial rule. However, reflection upon history and analysis of reality indicates that every country must respect other countries' distinct features, which is the prerequisite for international mutual trust. International relations needn't and shouldn't be zero-sum gaming and mutual confrontation, and especially in the current context that such global issues as environment, climate, energy, security, nuclear proliferation and financial crisis call for global cooperation. China advocates strengthening cultural communication, drawing on each other's strengths, carrying out negotiations, and seeking common ground while shelving differences, which is in line with the long-term goal and realistic tasks for building harmonious society. Therefore, we must make earnest efforts to foster strategic mutual trust and cooperation, so as to avoid and mitigate information misreading and build constructive ties. Differences and misunderstandings about culture, history and strategy pose grave challenges to peace. Cultural communication—people-to-people and soul-to-

soul communication—is fundamental, ubiquitous and lasting, constituting an important way for exchanges and mutual-reinforcement between different civilizations as well as a significant bridge for advancing ties among different countries. Diversification of cultures is a basic characteristic of human society. All civilizations actively contribute to advancing human civilization in their own ways; differences among civilizations, and especially those in terms of history and cultural, social institutions and development paths, should neither be the roots for conflicts, nor the obstacles to communication, let alone the reasons for confrontation.

China advocates strengthening cultural communication out of sober-minded judgment about its own development level. It is wise to know about oneself as well as one's rivals. Though China has made great headway, it is still far behind some developed countries. Therefore, China should actively draw on all the excellent cultural fruits, and engage in international cultural exchanges through multiple channels, in diverse forms and at various levels. In Chinese history, there are many much-told stories about friendly communication and cooperation among different peoples in the world conducive to spread and growth of diverse cultures. Chinese history and the great practice of reform and opening-up have proved that an open mindset full of confidence marks the start for new progress. As China opens its arms to welcome all positive foreign cultures, it is bound to radiate more vitality.

The actions of each nation, each enterprise and each individual are oriented to certain culture. Beijing Forum, an important stage for cultural communication, has set sub-forums echoing the concern of the time, aiming for lofty goals and featuring appropriate designs. It is hoped that the Forum will identify the new world pattern in drastic transformation, seize new opportunities for reform of global governance structure, face squarely the new challenges caused by outmoded systems and policies, and put forward new thoughts on addressing problems and enhancing common understanding through well-rounded discussions at various levels. Let us all contribute to the harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity through promoting and participating in cultural communication.

Wish this forum a complete success. Thank you!

Speech at the Opening Ceremony of Beijing Forum 2012

Zhou Qifeng

President, Peking University

Honorable Vice Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee Yan Junqi,
Honorable Chairman Luo Haocai of China Society for Human Rights
Studies,

Distinguished leaders, dear guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

At the opening ceremony of Beijing Forum 2012, I would like to, on behalf of Peking University, extend warm welcome to all distinguished guests present.

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China and Beijing Municipality, and the care and support of multiple cooperation organizations as well as friends from all sectors of society, Beijing Forum, from conducting initial planning and attempts to taking a full-fledged form at present, has, over the past nine years, evolved into a prestigious academic platform on humanities, exerting world-wide influence. The forum encapsulates scholars' reflection upon the world today and yearning for a more harmonious and desirable society. The commitment to academic studies and pursuit for truth of the scholars from across the world—valuable assets of Beijing Forum—reflect their strong sense of social responsibility.

Beijing Forum advocates dialogues on an equal footing among civilizations and cultures, in an attempt to promote reinforcement between academic research and social progress, seek solutions to major problems with social development, and in the end contribute to a new order of human civilization featuring harmony despite differences. Since the beginning of the new century, the aggregation, spread and escalation of sorts of global crises which often affect multi-production systems have inflicted harm upon all

human beings and our shared homeland—the earth. For example, the problem of public health is behind people's transnational migration; the climate issue is partly responsible for the change of consumption and adjustment of energy structure, and the world financial crisis since 2008 has led to turbulences engulfing a lot of regions in economy, politics and even society. No country can be impervious to the interrelated and escalating crises. From the perspective of Beijing Forum, all the crises can be put into the nutshell of civilization crisis since civilization conditions people's understanding about their own behavior against morality, like about what is harmonious development, what is ultimate happiness, how to foster in-depth understanding between civilizations and nations, and how to exert concerted efforts to cope with grave challenges. The answers to the whole range of questions can only be sought at the civilization level.

With the above understanding, we feel indeed that Beijing Forum upholding the banner “Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All” is of ever-growing significance. In recent editions of Beijing Forum, Tu Weiming, Director of Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies, PKU, has proposed the point that “Dialogue among Civilizations” is the top priority in the 21st century, and had many a “dialogue between civilizations” organized, in an endeavor to seek moral values shared by Confucianism, Islam, Christianity and Buddhism among other cultures. Just a week ago, PKU in cooperation with University of Tübingen established the World Ethics Center which will inject traditional Chinese culture elements into the research upon world ethics. All of our efforts are intended to build open and rational ethics in diverse forms, and reiterate respect for life, equality and justice.

Beijing Forum, while actively drawing on different cultural traditions, always keeps abreast of the times by conducting the lofty mission of responding to pressing issues in human society, which is perfectly illustrated by the themes of the previous eight editions of Beijing Forum. We ever focused attention upon the opportunities and development in Asia brought along by globalization, and conducted discussions upon multiple development patterns in the multi-polarized world. And in view of the increasingly severe problem of climate change, we urged all in concern to shoulder responsibility and carry out constructive work to protect our homeland. With a view of finding a way out in the post-financial-crisis period, we attempted to take the tension between tradition and modernity into reflection upon social

transformation. All the themes have elicited enthusiastic responses, and led the way for insightful people from across the world to have in-depth discussions upon the development path and civilization mode. An overview of the previous eight forums reveals the general understanding of attendees to Beijing Forum is that we are in the period of transition between old and new, where in drastic changes are taking place. The human society is in urgent need to weed through the old to bring forth the new, and fulfill a package of fundamental reforms on such things as theories and ethics, so as to finally achieve a social scenario more harmonious and more accommodating.

So it follows that this year, Beijing Forum is themed on “Challenges and Opportunities: New Thinking in New Reality”, calling on people engaged in study of humanities and social sciences to bring in more open-ended thinking resources and design a more harmonious development mode. The new thoughts and new opportunities the Forum yearns for and pursues reveal our critical thinking on why we pursue development and our aspiration to redress the current social malaise as well as endeavors to that end. Based on the essential understanding that the existing development modes are unsustainable, top-notch scholars in various circles have made a good number of creative proposals in recent years and many state governments are endeavoring to realign their development priorities. The thoughts and practice—in the process of taking form—which sparkle with promising prospect are yet to be summarized and refined. So the Forum is committed to serving as the platform to refine original thoughts and it is hoped that serious communication and discussion herein will contribute to further improved new thoughts and theories which we will take as the guide to blaze a new trail for development and open up new prospect in civilization.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the past nine years, Beijing Forum has been all along thinking about how to interact with more academic institutions and associations, in order to receive up-to-date thoughts in building its dedicated website through cooperation with other parties. We endeavor to absorb new cooperation resources and expand our partnership. Through panels dedicated to prestigious universities, dialogues among civilizations, and involvement of young students and entrepreneurs, we have enriched the connotations and denotations of the Forum. We are deeply conscious of the fact that the

growth and prosperity of Beijing Forum is impossible if not for more than 3300 noted scholars' ready participation; moreover, the Forum owes its ever-growing vitality to its partners including international organizations and world-famous universities. Here, I would like to, on behalf of PKU and Beijing Forum Academic Committee, extend sincere gratitude to those who have been following Beijing Forum's development with interest and showing support and concern to the Forum!

Wish Beijing Forum 2012 a complete success! Thank you!

Evolution of Peaceful and Prosperous Planet Earth

APJ Abdul Kalam

Former President, Republic of India

I am delighted to address Beijing Forum 2012. The theme of this forum “Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All—Challenges and Opportunities : New Thinking in New Reality” is a topic of perennial value and the dream of all humankind since time immemorial; and one that is close to the very soil of India. When I see the gathering of intellectuals hailing from many nations participating in this Forum for evolving harmony of civilizations and bringing prosperity to all, I was asking myself what are the unifying forces and the challenges in front of the world. I would like share some thought on the topic “*Evolution of Peaceful and Prosperous Planet Earth*”.

Friends, today I am very happy to attend the Beijing Forum 2012, that has a great mission and the title of Beijing forum is really unique. Yesterday evening, I had meeting with Prof. Zhu Shanlu, Chairman of Peking University council, Prof. Li Yansong, Vice President, Peking University with his team and my team. We had detailed discussions on the title of “Harmony of Civilization and Prosperity for All”. After detailed discussions on the core competencies of China and India, we both agreed on one mission, a greatest mission for Beijing Forum 2012 is that to proclaim to the world that, we the two old and great civilization—China and India are nearly account for $1/3^{\text{rd}}$ of world population, we should set an example by collaboration and cooperation by evolving joint venture programmes, properly funded by both the nations that will lead both the nations together to achieve harmony of civilizations and bring prosperity for all between the two nations as well as with all the other nations in the region and the world. This one unique action will become a harbinger for evolving a great model of cooperation in an integrated and unique way for the world of nations to assimilate to arrive at world peace and prosperity for all.

What Connects the World?

For promoting universal peace and prosperity, we need to identify what are the fundamental parameters which connect nations into one unified platform, what tools which enable such connectivity and what specific agendas are needed to bring the world together. Such fundamental parameters include **environment, trade and economies, security, health and education of the humanity**. These four parameters connect the world with a compounding positive effect, meaning that well being of one nation on these parameters imply the well being of every other nation as well. Let us discuss these four parameters. **Environment:** Due to rapid industrialization the Carbon dioxide concentration today stands at 395 ppm up from about 280 ppm in pre-industrial revolution era of mid-nineteenth century. Environment has become an issue of international importance and affecting human health, habitation and crop patterns across the globe. Such a concern which is common to humanity gained widespread importance during the late 1980s and many landmark organizations and initiatives were formed to address this issue and they are working together to reduce impact on environment.

Economy and Trade: The second factor which connects the world is economies and trade. Today, the merchandize trade across world is worth about \$19 trillion/year and the growing services trade is valued at over \$4.2 trillion/year. In fact, with over one-third of the world population India and China are rated by WTO as the fastest growing importers (China 9.7%, India 6.6%) as well as the fastest growing exporters (India 16.1%, China 9.2%). Interestingly, the fastest growing manufacturers are also the rapidly growing markets. This is the connectivity of the economy and it binds the world in many ways as we have already seen in the past.

Security: The third issue which is a matter of global togetherness is the aspect of security and hence promotion of sustained peace is a pre-requisite to economic development. In 1945, post the World War II the United Nations was established to avert large scale inter-state conflict. In spite of such an organization, there has been continued conflict threat and damages. The international institution is ripe for re-organization encompassing proper representation in the Security Council and removing its veto power.

Meanwhile, the numbers of intra-state conflicts, organized terrorism and

proxy wars are phenomena on the rise in the entire globe. With the spread of the world information backbone in the form of the internet, there is also a growing issue of addressing cyber crimes and cyber terrorism which can aim at crippling critical services. Nations are coming together to address these issues on a variety of scale.

Human Development in the Form of Health and Education for All: Friends, today we are in an era of multinational research and multinational product design and marketing. An invention made today somewhere takes no time to find its market thousands of miles away. When designers, developers, researchers, marketers, buyers, sellers and investors are all global, the international interest is in the development of quality workforce globally, often to suit the local market context too. Hence, education and skill development is an issue which brings the world together.

In the healthcare area, in early 20th century, Polio was the major disease emerging; this led to the Great Race for a vaccine against polio across the globe in various institutions and resulted a vaccine in 1950s, which has found solution for the problem. Now it is a time for finding a solution for solving the problem Malaria, HIV/AIDS and Diabetes.

Challenges and Unifying Forces of Humanity

In the world history, there are several instances which have demonstrated that nations get united when they find a common urge and threat such as; Indian Freedom movement, Chinese revolution and the formation of European Union. Now, time has come to find such a common urge and threat for compelling the humanity to live in peace and prosperity as a global community.

World Vision 2030: Liveable Planet Earth

How to bring the nation's prosperity through economic superiority and simultaneously assuring peace to nation? What is the unique vision that will replace military superiority between and among nations? I have a feeling that we need a great vision, higher than individuals, ideologies, party affiliation, political ambitions and the present technological superiority. Dear friends, can we visualize what it should be?

The humanity needs a great vision to forget all the conflicts and move towards a common goal of peace and prosperity for all the global citizens. We visualize the birth of world vision leading to “livable planet earth”. This vision will be greater than any other vision so far envisioned by the humanity.

I think there cannot be a greater vision for the nations other than transforming our **“Planet earth livable”**. That means, are we leaving a sustainable world where we have taken less from nature than what we have given to it? As long as there are inequities of development between urban and rural areas; between neighborhoods; in sharing valuable resources, peace will elude us. Particularly, modern technology has made the world a global village. Hence tolerance for inequities will also come down. We have to use the same technology to bring global progress with a vision to achieve the same with consistent missions and programmes. Hence, while creating wealth in the classical sense we need to find new opportunities to serve the knowledge society in ways hitherto not imagined.

The solution may be to find products for 7 billion people of the world so that the whole world will own up business. We will have to find newer methods of cooperation so that core competence of even remote villages can be synergized for competitive products. With such a thought process, I discussed with my colleagues and formulated the possible distinctive development profile of the nations of the world in 2030 as follows.

Distinctive Profile for the Nations of the World in 2030

1. A world of nations where the divide between rural and urban, rich and the poor, developed and developing has narrowed down.
2. A world of nations where there is an equitable distribution and adequate access to energy and quality water.
3. A world where core competencies of each nation are identified. Missions synergizing the core competencies of different nations lead to economic advantage and faster development for all the societies.
4. A world of nations where all the students of all societies are imparted education with value system.
5. A world of nations where affordable quality health care is available to