



太和文明論壇  
Taihe Civilizations Forum

2017

TAIHE CIVILIZATIONS FORUM

CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS



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## Preface

The Book of Changes has the saying that "(the conditions of) great harmony are preserved in unity, and hence advantage, correctness, and firmness", the broad sense of which is that the nature endows all beings with unique gifts, shapes the personalities of individual people and coordinates relationships among them to produce the "great" or "supreme" harmony". It is intended to help people correctly recognize themselves and the world, create common values and gain consistent wisdom and forward momentum in life. Initiated and founded by the Taihe Institute, the Taihe Civilizations Forum (TCF) aims to engage elites and leaders from all over the world to facilitate cultural exchanges across countries and regions as well as promoting the harmonious, sustainable development of human society by adhering to impartial and meticulous, globally-oriented, forefront-focused, practical and efficient principles "in pursuit of common values and harmonious development". From August 25 to 27, 2017, the first Taihe Civilizations Forum, with the theme of "seeking common values across different civilizations", was held in Miyun, Beijing, where in-depth exchanges and discussions took place on three topics: people-to-people exchange, climate change and sustainable development, and artificial intelligence (AI). The highlights of this forum are hereby compiled in this book in order to commemorate the success of the first Taihe Civilizations Forum and to show gratitude to our distinguished guests from all over the world.

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## Introduction of Taihe Institute

The Taihe Institute is one of the leading Chinese think tanks, who is generated by technology, guided by action and connected with the rest of the world. Founded in 2013 in Beijing, it takes "collaborating of global elites, searching for common values" as its duty. Taihe focuses on contemporary issues that China and the world are confronted with and endeavors to generate high-quality research products, in order to provide basis for the decision-making on the development of China and to provide intelligent support for the communications of the world.

Taihe focuses specifically in areas such as people-to-people exchange, international politics, religion, science and technology, education, culture, finance and economics, etc. Taihe has taken projects entrusted by the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, National Health Commission, The People's Bank of China, and other departments of the central government. Except for those projects entrusted above, the research products will be published to the globe through Taihe's own platforms as well as those of its media partners, and the significant products will be published in the form of book series of Taihe Institute.

Taihe has built up close connections with nearly hundred of both domestic and international organizations in the fields such as academic exchange and non-official activities, the domestic partners of which include the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, and China Education Association for International Exchange, and the foreign partners of which include the UNESCO, Secretariat of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Brookings Institute, the National Committee on Sino-U.S. Relations, the Eisenhower Foundation, the U.S.-China Strong Foundation and the College of Europe, etc. Taihe also chairs the Sino-American Youth Makers Exchange Centers Expert Committee which is responsible for the qualification review, development guidance and outcome assessment.

Taihe initiated the Taihe Civilizations Forum (TCF) in 2017. The TCF aims at supporting the harmonious development of common values and the advancement of human civilization, and takes "mpartial, multinational, novel and practical". Participants discuss global and regional challenges, explore root causes, and identify possible solutions. TCF follows a world-class standard, and is growing to an academic as well as people-to-people diplomacy platform which possesses global influence.

## Profile of International Guests



### Scott Beaumont

Scott Beaumont is the President of Google Greater China, overseeing Google's Sales and Operations in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea. Previously, Scott was the Managing Director of Partnerships in Northern & Central Europe. He was responsible for some of Google's largest European partnerships, including E-Commerce, ISPs, and media publishers. He was also a Member of the European Management Team.

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### Cameron Hume

Cameron R. Hume was U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia from 2007 to 2010. He retired from the Foreign Service with a rank of Career Minister. His earlier assignment places included Italy, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon, the United Nations, and the Holy See. He also served as a panelist in the Decadal Independent Review of the NOAA Ocean Exploration program.

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### Thorsten Jelinek

Thorsten Jelinek is the Managing Director of Polyterra, a research and development company in the field of sustainable materials and products, and the Director of the Taihe Europe Center of Taihe Institute, a public-policy think tank based in Beijing. Thorsten Jelinek is a professional and an entrepreneur with cross-industry background, focusing on innovation, sustainability, and international relations.



### Cheng Li

Cheng Li is the Director of the John L. Thornton China Center and a Senior Fellow in the Foreign Policy program at Brookings Institution. He is also a Director of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. Li focuses on the transformation of political leaders and domestic regional development in China and the U.S.-China relations.

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### Joseph Merante

Merante is responsible for managing the Institute's strategic relations with the U.S. Government, including the broad network of supporters and partners of the U.S. Congress, the United Nations and its affiliated agencies and institutes. Prior to joining Humpty Dumpty, Merante, a career U.S. Foreign Service Officer, served in Europe, Africa, and Asia. He also served at U.S. Mission to the United Nations from 1986 to 1989, and from 2004 to 2006.

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### Bill Megalos

Bill Megalos is an award-winning documentary director whose series of mini-dramas on family planning won the World Health Organization's Global Award for Media Excellence in Beijing in 1985. He has managed to combine a career as a director, producer, and cinematographer with teaching at the university as well as leading workshops around the world. He has photographed over 30 full-length documentaries for PBS, the BBC and Channel 4 (UK) and has filmed in over 50 countries.



### Stephen Orlins

Stephen Orlins has been President of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations since 2005. Prior to that, he was the Managing Director of Carlyle Asia, one of the largest private equity company in Asia, and the Chairman of the Board of Taiwan Broadband Communications, one of Taiwan's largest cable television and high speed internet providers. Prior to joining Carlyle, he was a senior advisor of AEA Investors Inc., a New York based leveraged buyout firm, with responsibility for AEA's business activities throughout Asia.

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### Julia Pierrepont III

Julia Pierrepont III is a famous Hollywood director, a producer and a writer, known for Good (2008), Nine Dead (2010) and Lost in the Pershing Point Hotel (2000). She won Best Feature Film (both Audience Award and Grand Jury Prize) at New York International Independent Film & Video Festival, First Prize of Featured Narrative at Doctor's View Film Festival and Production Grand Award at Los Angeles Independent Film Festival.

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### Travis Tanner

Travis Tanner is the President of the US-China Strong Foundation. Based in Beijing, he works to advance the Foundation's mission by providing executive leadership and leading its China operations. He has more than 15 years of experience working on US-China relations.

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### Diane Tuft

Since 1998, Diane Tuft has photographed the visual effects of infrared and ultraviolet light on the Earth's landscape. Searching for light beyond our visible spectrum has brought her to locations where large amounts of ozone depletion exist. Through her visual exploration of these subjects, she hopes to stimulate a discussion surrounding the issues of climate change and global warming and the importance of paying attention to the climate challenges that our planet is facing.



## Profile of Domestic Guests



### Dali Chen

Director of the Division of American and Oceanian Affairs, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education. Eisenhower scholar, Dr. of Laws at Renmin University of China.



### Hongbing Chen

Director of the China Office of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

He had worked for Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a long term, including former spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Egypt, the former deputy director of the Department of Treaty and Laws, and the former director of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs and the former counselor of the Chinese delegation to Geneva. He has been committed to promote cooperation with China actively after joining WIPO in 2015.



### Liru Cui

Senior Advisor and Researcher of the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, Ph. D. Supervisor, Member of the National Committee of CPPCC, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Senior Advisor of the China National Association for International Studies, the Chinese Association for American Studies and the Chinese Association for Japanese Studies, Director of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI, U.S.A.). His main research fields include American foreign policy, China-US relations, international strategic and security issues and China's diplomatic and security issues.



### Wei Da

Wei Da is the director and a Fellow of the Institute of American Studies of China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR). His research fields include China-U.S. relations, American foreign policies, security policy and China's foreign policy.



### **Tony Dong**

Tony Dong is the Chairmen of Organizing Committee of Sino-European Entrepreneurs Summit, Doctor of Management, General Manager of the International Cooperation Department of Beijing Capital Group, Special Assistant of Former Secretary-General of Boao Forum for Asia, and Senior Advisor of the G20 Research Center.

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### **Lianghong Fei**

Lianghong Fei is the Chief Advisor AWS of Cloud Computing Technology, who has over 20 years of experience in the field of IT and software development. He now focuses on the technology field including cloud computing and Internet, devotes to help Chinese developers to build a new generation of Internet applications based on cloud computing.

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### **Angel Guo**

Researcher of Think Tank League for Central Enterprises of State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council. Senior Vice President of Hope Education Group.

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### **Liam He**

Founder and CEO of iRobot City, Regional Manager (China) of VIACCESS, Liam He is familiar with photoelectric and telecom security fields, etc.



### Canrong Jin

Second-grade Professor of Renmin University of China, Vice President of University of International Relations, Diplomacy Professional Doctoral Tutor, Director of Renmin University of China Research Center for China's foreign strategy. The main field of academic research includes: political system and political culture of the United States, diplomacy of the United States, China-US relations and relations between big powers and China's foreign policy.

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### Yongtu Long

Chief Negotiator for China's resumption of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) contracting party status and its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Former Director and Secretary-General of Boao Forum for Asia, Former Dean of School of International Relations and Public Affairs at Fudan University. Currently, Yongtu Long is the Co-chairman of the Global CEO Conference and Chairman of Center of China & Globalization (CCG).

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### Junfeng Li

Former Director and Researcher of National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC), the Ninth Annual Zayed Future Energy Prize Lifetime Achievement Award Winner. Junfeng LI focus on energy economy and energy environment theory.

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### Xinlei Li

Associate Professor of School of Political Science and Public Administration at Shandong University and Deputy Director of the Environmental Politics Research Institute. Xinlei Li specializes in studying energy and environment governance, with a particular focus on renewable energy policy, global climate governance, transnational urban networks and transnational water pollution control.



### **Xiaohai Liu**

Chief Representative of Beijing Representative Office of Conservation International Foundation. Xiaohai Liu devotes himself in a long term to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. As the Chinese Chief Representative of Conservation International, he owns rich experiences and hands-on knowledge in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development spectrum.

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### **Tim Pan**

Dr. Tim Pan is Deputy Dean of Microsoft Research Asia, who is responsible for the academic exchange and collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region between Microsoft Research Asia and Asia Pacific universities, research institutions and government.

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### **Xiaowei Shen**

Doctor Xiaowei Shen is Director of IBM Research – China, Chief Technology Officer of IBM Greater China. His research fields include cognitive technology and its application in the era of big data, cloud computing platform and infrastructure, block chain technology, Internet of Things technology and industry application, and innovation and application of artificial intelligence in fields of health, energy, environment, finance, etc.

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### **Rong Shang**

Vice President of Operation, Communication and Public Affairs of Microsoft Asia-Pacific R&D Group and President of the Labor Union of Microsoft China. Managing director of Enterprise Confederation of Beijing Committee of China Association for Promoting Democracy, Chairman of Enterprise Committee of China International Public Relations Association, Faculty Advisor of the Global Creative Industry Course in the University of Hong Kong, Member of International Association of Business Communicators.



### Jeffrey Guangxi Wang

Jeffrey Guangxi Wang is Managing Director of Lenovo Capital. Lenovo Capital is Lenovo Group's investment branch responsible for building ecosystem and incubating new business through venture investments and corporate spinoff at various stages. He holds a doctorate degree in electrical engineering from the California Institute of Technology.



### Zongguo Wen

Professor and Doctorial Tutor at Environment School of Tsinghua University. He is also Secretary-General of Ecological Civilization Research Center and Director of Centre for Industry and Circular Economy at Tsinghua University. Zongguo Wen's research fields include planning and management on resource environmental system, Internet of Things and big data on resources environment.



### Xinbo Wu

Dr. Xinbo Wu is Professor and Executive Deputy Dean of Institute of International Studies and Director at the Center for American Studies of Fudan University. He is currently a member of the Advisory Council of Asia Society Policy Institute, Member of The Trilateral Commission and Member of The Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP). His major involvement focus on research and teaching China's foreign and security policy, Sino-U.S. relations, and politics and security in Asia-Pacific.



### Hailong Wu

President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs. Hailong Wu was China's U.N. Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary based in office at Geneva.



### Hongyuan Yu

Director of Institute for Comparative Politics and Public Policy at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies. Hongyuan Yu is also Vice President of Shanghai Association of Ecological Economy, a Visiting Fellow of Center for International Energy Strategy Studies of Renmin University of China, fellow for Sustainable Developmental Research Center of China Academy for Social Science.

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### Hongjun Yu

Hongjun Yu is the Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, Committee Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, at the same time, Consultant of the International Finance Forum, the World Socialism Research of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Research Center of National Strategy of the Chinese Academy of Governance. He is an expert of international affairs and is mainly studying modern international relations, world party politics and modern China's diplomacy.

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### Haibin Zhang

Haibin Zhang is a Professor of the School of International Studies and the Director of the Center for International Organization Studies of Peking University. His major research fields include international environment and climate politics, China's environmental diplomacy and the U.N. issues.

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### Chunquan Zhu

Chunquan Zhu had been assumed the Representative of IUCN in China since 2012 and he is assuming the Director of the Ecological Society of China and Beijing Forestry Society at present. He had been working in the public sector for near 29 years. He has worked with various partners at different levels, and enjoys close contact with officials in various government Ministries. He has also worked closely on partnerships with international organizations, NGOs as well as private sectors.

## Opening Speech



**Boping Gu**

**Chief Cultural Scholar of Taihe Institute,  
Member of the CPPCC National Committee**

**Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,**

Good morning! Relaxing in the fresh early autumn breeze in Beijing, I am very glad and honored to gather with all our guests at the foot of the Great Wall and the top of Yanshan Mountain, to inaugurate the first "Taihe Civilizations Forum". First of all, on behalf of my colleagues in the Taihe Institute, I would like to extend our warm welcome to the distinguished guests from all fields and industries around the world, and sincerely thank you for your recognition and support of the Taihe Institute and Civilizations Forum.

As we all know, the culture and civilization of human society, after thousands of years of evolution and development, has broken away from ignorance and barbarism and risen to a highly developed level. However, the journey has not been straightforward, and has combined exchanges and fusion with collisions and conflicts, continuing development with annihilation. While standing in the present and looking to the future, the inheritance and sustainable development of human culture and civilization still faces various threats and challenges, such as the impact of rapid technological advance on social ethics, climate change and environmental degradation, the uneven economic development of different countries and regions, and the contradictions and conflicts between different cultures. Communication and integration between different civilizations is still in progress. Many problems are not isolated, so no country, region or nationality is able to deal with them alone. There is no doubt that human society has coalesced into a community with a single destiny. This requires all of us to unconditionally abandon pride and prejudice, to realize that diverse cultures cannot be classified as good or bad. Through comparative studies and friendly discussion, as well as integration between cultures, mutual learning and construction, cultural innovation will be fostered, and improvement will be promoted, and result in the harmonious and sustainable development of mankind.



Since its establishment, Taihe Institute has established the goal of "Focusing on Contemporary Needs" and undertaken a mission to bring together leading experts from around the world in an effort to seek common values, so the Taihe Civilizations Forum aims to set up a platform for the exchange of information, to absorb and gather experts of all fields to speak equally and freely, and to study and grasp the common values of communication, collaboration and the integrated development of human civilization. In China, we have the legends of The Bird Jingwei Trying to Fill up the Sea and The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains. Today is the first step toward our ideal goal. With sincere hearts and a common goal, none of us will feel tired. With goodwill and positive intentions as well as firm steps, we believe that more and more friends will be able to recognize and practice the spirit of the "Taihe Civilizations Forum" in future. Let us strive together for a community promoting a shared future for mankind.

Finally, I wish the first Taihe Civilizations Forum great success and fruitful achievements. At the same time, may the friendship between you all and the Taihe Institute be ever-closer and long-lasting. Thank you!



**Thorsten Jelinek**

**Director of Taihe Institute Europe Center**

It appears that we are increasingly witnessing what Samuel Huntington once called the "clash of civilizations," a clash between different cultures, religions, and ways of life in certain parts of the world. We even see the decay of common values altogether. However, values, rituals, symbols, narratives—that is, the very fabrics of culture—provide meaning and are existential to our individual and collective identities.

One of the three themes we are going to address this afternoon is people-to-people exchange. Deepening people-to-people exchange and bonds will become even more important given the increasing mass migration within and across borders. Migration will further intensify the tensions between cultures, but it can also contribute to mutual understanding and for sharing and developing joined values. The ancient Silk Road is frequently mentioned these days as an example of the peaceful coexistence of different cultures.

When we discuss people-to-people exchange this afternoon, keep in mind the question of what causes and what is affected by today's civilizational clashes.



Is the clash due to cross-cultural differences or due to the effect of other, equally fundamental processes? Mass-migration and cultural exclusion are the results of economic globalization, server material inequality, poverty, un- and underemployment, geopolitical tension, war, and climate change. Cultural clashes happen in our mind due to other causes that have nothing to do with the cultural "other."

Obviously, today's civilizational clashes do not signal Francis Fukuyama's "end of history" and not the victory of liberal-democratic, Western capitalism. With China's rise since its reform, history has just begun or resumed. However, something else looms large in the future that might put an end to history. It relates to the second theme of our civilizations forum, and that is the rapid advancement of technologies; in particular, the advancement of artificial intelligence, robotics, and the merging between organic and non-organic systems. No doubt, advanced digitalization will improve our lives as technical progress has done in the past. However, if we believe the predictions—as put forward by scholars like Yuval Noah Harari in his book *Homo Deus*—we might well be approaching the end of our humanist history. All past industrial revolutions replaced old jobs with new jobs and new skills, but never directly competed against the human brain. Agrarian peasants are replaced by factory workers, and factory workers are replaced by service and knowledge workers. However, what will come after knowledge work and after the third industry? Artificial intelligence will directly compete against the human brain's function, which has made possible the previous revolutions and the emergence of AI. Now, the human brain and humanism might turn against itself. Such projections of "singularity" do not leave much space for utopian thoughts. In the meantime, there will be winners of this 4th industrial revolution, certainly those companies and countries who will set the new standards and own and control the data and algorithms.

The third and final theme of our conference explores climate change and sustainability. This issue is no less urgent or less complex, but technology could actually support climate action and prevent the continuous degradation of our planet. However, some scholars claim that a 3- to 4-degree Celsius temperature increase and 0.6-meter sea level rise by the end of this century are inevitable and would completely alter the way we inhabit our planet today—given that we are still human by 2100. In the meantime, however, we will witness more and more climate change-related disasters, damages, and social costs. For the first time, the need for climate action reached an international consensus at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1994 and cumulated with the celebrated the Paris Agreement in December 2015. Nevertheless, CO2 emissions have continued to skyrocket and so has one undeniable, dominant cause of global warming. Before the Paris Agreement, China was the culprit of international climate action. Now China has become the potential driving force behind overcoming the lack of global stewardship for climate action and sustainable development.

Ladies and gentlemen, my dear friends, on behalf of the Taihe Institute, I wish you many insightful and controversial, yet constructive discussions this afternoon and tomorrow. Come up with some tangible results by the end of this forum. Please keep in mind, the ancient Chinese word "taihe" stands for supreme harmony. Let us find intelligible and actionable ways of restoring taihe.



## **Hailong Wu**

### **Director of Chinese People's Institute for Foreign Affairs**

Diversity is the basic feature of human civilization. The history of human society development tells the replacement, continuity and inheritance of different civilizations as each embraces its prosperity and demise. Through this process, the core issue was to seek mutual respect and find ways for harmonious co-existence and mutual prosperity between different cultures. Cultural differences should not become the root cause of international conflicts; instead, it should serve as engines that empower cultural development. Exchange, communication and mutual learning between different cultures should be the fundamental ways to resolve existing differences and conflicts as well as enhance understanding and mutual trust. In China, we have a proverb saying that "pain arises out of obstruction and removing the obstruction releases pain". With removal of obstacles in people's mind, disputes and fights would eventually come to an end.

Although the society development has entered into a high-speed period, in which technology advances and the way people communicate updates day by day, which makes people's communication much easier. The exchange between different countries and even between different people, however, still haven't meet the need of the society development.

With respect to China, we deem that we are the second largest economy in the world and everybody in the world should know us. However, what many Chinese still ignore is that many people in this world know little or even know nothing about China. Three years ago, I worked as the Chinese ambassador in EU. Almost half of the members of the European Parliament have never been to China and their understanding about China is very limited, and was filled with bias and discrimination, which actually shocked and baffled me a lot. Not long ago, I met up with a delegation group from the House of Commons of Canada. Three out of the four delegates have never been to China before, even one of them is the chairman of a committee in the House. They told me that all their understanding and impressions

of China came from their local media. After they followed our institute's arrangement and visited several places, their impression towards China got totally overturned. A female representative was so excited that she almost burst to tears several times after realized tremendous achievements of China. Several weeks ago, I took three former leaders of foreign countries to Kubuqi desert in Inner Mongolia for a forum regarding to anti-desertification. When they learned about China's practices in turning deserts into oasis, they couldn't stop exclaiming "Amazing! Unbelievable!". By sharing these examples, I just want to point out that China, a rapidly developing country, still lacks communication with foreign countries. Actually, what we have done is far from enough. There's still a long way to go by telling Chinese stories to let more people understand and know us better.

The communication needs to grow both in breadth and in depth and with human interests. Being honesty and frankness, other people could perceive and accept the right message we sent out. Also, communication should help resolving misunderstandings and problems. We should not only communicate with people who are friendly to us, but also communicate with those who hold bias and misunderstanding about us.

When I served as the director of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we had dialogues on human rights with the EU in eight times and with the US in twice. I think such dialogues on human rights were very tough communications. Although we haven't totally corrected westerners' misunderstanding toward human rights issues in China, at least we have clarified many groundless misstatements and told the truth of many issues. Though there was limited understanding that has been enhanced, we have encouraged knowledge between countries. I think communicating is always better than doing nothing. People become closer through communication and people-to-people exchange is an essential way to build mutual trust and develop a sustained relationship between countries.

Currently, there are ongoing debates on impacts of AI development over human future all over the world. Different arguments arise. Even many well known people like Hawkin have also joined the league of debaters. Not long ago, debates between Musker and Mark Zuckerberg have attracted special attention. And before that, victory of AlphaGo among the many international Go players also shocked a lot of people.

Debates over advantages and disadvantages of AI will keep lasting with the development of AI. Each individual or group has its logic, thinking, and impressive arguments. No matter how it might look like in the future, no one can stop the general trend of AI development. What impacts will AI development bring to the mankind? What will be the results? Maybe our knowledge, capabilities and vision so far still prevent us from making comprehensive and accurate forecast. However, we should always prepare for the worst and take preventive actions to guard off potential risks. The Chinese ancients said that "getting prepared before your speech so that you can make strong arguments; getting prepared before you take actions so that you won't get stuck with difficulties and obstacles without a solution; getting

prepared before you make the decision so that you won't find yourself regretful; making plans before you act so that you won't be down and out". If we can set boundaries and limits for laws, ethics and morality and set prospective regulations, perhaps we can address the human-machine relations properly and make AI a tool for our use. I hope the discussions at this forum can generate insights that benefit AI development with clear understanding of its merits and demerits.

Climate change has already become a priority in global governance. Voices and warnings like "climate change hurts global economy" "climate change leads to rise of sea level" "climate change worsens scarcity of water resources" "climate change causes distinction of species" "climate change has fueled frequent forest fires" can be found everywhere.

Despite the incessant debates over causes for climate change among the past few decades, it is undeniable that human activity has been affecting on climate change. IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has long ago put forth clear conclusions on this issue. What we should do is to encourage governments from different countries to undertake their common but differentiated responsibilities, and to take specific and effective actions according to their own capabilities to reduce emission of green house gases. Although Donald Trump administration has shadowed the international community by withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, we shall never give up or delay our efforts in resolving climate change.

When we have been fully aware of the catastrophic consequences of climate change, hesitating, looking around, focusing on private margins or bargaining on what responsibilities to undertake are equivalent to criminal activities to the future generations.

I have personally attended the 1992 UN Environment and Development Conference in which the Agenda 21 was passed to warn people not to pollute first and solve the problem later. We shall not follow the path of western developed countries. However, many developing countries still get stuck in the trap of "pollution first and remedy later" and have paid heavy prices for it. These are all tragic historical lessons to bear in mind. Otherwise, we would suffer even more. In order to save ourselves from the consequences of climate change, we should take action now!

I am confident that all insights come up at this forum can contribute to promoting common values and harmonious co-existence of human civilization, and providing solutions towards challenges that we are facing with. In addition, we should not only possess our own understanding and ideas of the issues we are facing with, but also lead the general public towards a correct path. This is our responsibility as well as mission of this forum.

## Keynote Speech

# People-to-People Exchange in U.S.-China Relations



**Stephen Orlins**

President of the National Committee on  
United States-China Relations

I have often been asked two questions, of which one is "Why did you start learning Chinese 50 years ago?" and the other is "Do you have confidence in the future of China-US relations?" The answers to both are quite clear. I started learning Chinese 50 years ago because I believed in the past and still do now, that the peace and stability of the world depend in part on the United States' understanding of China. The answer to the second question depends on what all of us we will do for the development of China-US relations.

Looking back to the time when the National Committee on United States-China Relations was newly established in 1966, the United States was caught up in the Vietnam War. At that time, U.S. called China "Red China", while China called U.S. "A Declining Imperialist". Leaders of the two countries, Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai, President Nixon and State Secretary Kissinger, agreed that the Soviet Union was a common challenge to both China and U.S., and the situation of absence of diplomatic relations between the two countries should come to an end. It was indeed necessary to establish mutual trust between the governments and non-governmental organizations of the two countries. However, the 22-year separation had brought serious misunderstandings and concerns to both sides. How did the two sides break this impasse? I think it is to a great extent personal exchanges that have contributed to this historic breakthrough.

During the period of China-U.S. relations, "Ping-Pong Diplomacy" changed the two sides'

attitudes toward each other. Ping-Pong initiated people-to-people exchange between the People's Republic of China and the United States of America. Moreover, due to the important political and diplomatic events of 1971, it was also known as the ping-pong diplomacy period. At that time, diplomatic ties between China and the West had been suspended for more than two decades. Therefore, it was surprising when the U.S. table tennis team was invited to visit China after its participation in the Tokyo World Table Tennis Championships. This invitation launched the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and U.S. Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai paid close attention to this, which led to this great shock at that time! After all the formal approval procedures had been finished, the Americans, finally, were able to visit China. The Time magazine called the visit "Listening to the sound of ping pong", and many media reported it. During the visit, through contact and exchange between young people of the two countries, some of the previous misunderstandings and bias began to melt slowly. This was a significant start and laid a very important foundation for President Nixon's visit to China. During the same period as this visit, U.S. announced the termination of its 20-year trade embargo on China. In July 1971, Nixon announced that he would officially visit China in February 1972, which marked the first trip to China by the U.S. President. The U.S. table tennis team invited the Chinese table tennis team to visit U.S. in 1972 and took a special plane together to participate in the competition. As we all know, the Chinese table tennis team performed with outstanding brilliance and dominated the competition, while the U.S. table tennis athletes also improved their standing in their own hometown.

Over the subsequent 40 years, China and the United States carried out personal exchanges in more than 900 fields. In 1973, the U.S. track and field delegation came to China. Until that time, many Chinese people had believed that the United States was a lazy capitalist country, but when the Chinese people saw U.S. athletes' efforts, they changed their impressions of Americans. Similarly, the Chinese gymnasts performed well in competition in the United States, even though there was no sound due to a problem with the cassette, and the Americans were impressed with the professional ability and spirit of Chinese gymnasts. Here, I also want to talk about Mr. Xi Zhongxun, who visited the U.S. in 1980 as the Secretary of the provincial party committee, and also had an important influence on the development of China-U.S. relations.

In my view, when the China-U.S. relations face obstacles such as the trade issues and the North Korea issue, personal exchanges become more important than ever. In fact, personal exchanges have always been the lubricant of the two sides' relationship, I can't think of any event more influential to the relationship and mutual impressions between China and U.S. in the past 20 years than the 2008 Beijing Olympics Games. At the opening ceremony of the

Beijing Olympic Games, Yao Ming, as the standard-bearer, joined hands with a nine-year-old orphaned by the Wenchuan earthquake and entered the arena. We were all moved by that scene. The other thing that the Americans were touched by was Liu Xiang's withdrawal due to his injury. When his coach tearfully told the media about Liu's severe injury, many Americans were touched by the interview. Now, some Americans are afraid of the rise of China. However, these two events are worth a thousand words, which enable many Americans to better understand that the people of the two countries are actually the same.

At last, I would like to share with you about why I am confident about the future of China-U.S. relations.

I recently visited Dayton, Ohio, a small city in the mid-west of America, where my brother lives. Because of global competition and technology transfer, most of the factories in Dayton have been closed down and the economy is in a great depression, but on that day I saw the hope of Dayton's rise. A Chinese company built one of the nation's largest automotive glass production sites in Dayton, which directly employs more than 2,000 Americans, and 200,000 Americans indirectly participate in China-U.S. trade relations. I believe that more and more Americans will consider it is a good thing to develop China-U.S. relations.

In another example, a few months ago I returned to my alma mater, Harvard University, to attend a forum organized by Chinese students, in which more than 200 Chinese students participated in the activities. But when I was studying at Harvard 50 years ago, there were only 12 Asian students in the class. At the forum, I said I sincerely hope that one day the President of the United States can understand China and speak Chinese. All the students stood up and cheered at the same time. At that time, I realized that the 325,000 Chinese students studying in the U.S. and the 25,000 American students learning in China will become a bridge connecting China and U.S. as well as the world, and they will also further deepen the mutual understanding between China and U.S. to help China-U.S. relations become more solid.

Although there are some obstacles between China and U.S. and some people, for certain purposes, may obstruct us from establishing constructive relations, I am still very optimistic about the future of China-U.S. relations.

All the China-U.S. exchanges we talked about today are the results of the joint efforts by friendly people from both China and U.S. Through the efforts of all parties and various exchanges, we have deepened the mutual understanding between China and the U.S. and promoted the development of bilateral relations. The difficulties are temporary. I believe our efforts will bring a better future for China-U.S. relations!



# The rest of the world moves towards chaos, while China chooses peaceful rise



**Hongjun Yu**

Former Vice Minister of the International  
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Committee

## I. Instability, uncertainty and unpredictability have become the new norm for international relations

As we all know, the world today is undergoing major changes, major adjustments and major transitions, with an unstable international situation and world economy, geopolitical order conflicts and increasingly prominent global problems. After nearly 40 years of reform and opening up, China has never been closer to the great historical goal of "National Revival". The Chinese are proud and excited, and the world is also shocked, but at the same time, we should be acutely aware that China's surrounding environment is facing profound and complex changes. The chaotic world situation and the complicated and ever-changing environment have brought increasing pressures and challenges to the comprehensive advance of China's modernization and construction.

Chaos in today's world began with the drastic changes of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the late 1980s, which led to the collapse of the Soviet Union, the dissolution of the Warsaw Treaty Organization, the eastward expansion of the EU and NATO, and significant changes in the geostrategic environment in Europe. Today, more than 30 years later, this violent, drastic and profound regional change has not yet ended completely. The Ukraine crisis is a striking example, and some countries may be divided again.

In the early 1990s, as the cold war was drawing to a close, the United States launched its first Gulf War, and operation "Desert Storm" caused major turmoil in the Middle East. After the new century began, chaos in the Middle East spread far and wide; Libya, Iraq, Yemen



and some other countries have been deeply divided; the humanitarian disaster caused by wars in Syria continues to spill over, but the international community has no solutions to deal with these.

Now, the western world faces a mountain of problems. Since the EU's sovereign debt crisis erupted in 2008, internal conflicts have deepened and the rift has further deepened, with British announcing its resignation from the EU. The internal disputes in the EU continue to grow and the integration process has been seriously frustrated. Internally, extreme xenophobia and populism have bucked the trend. The aggravation of polarization and anti-integration waves in the United States have caused the process of economic globalization and the common progress of human beings to undergo undue interference and shock. It is heart wrenching.

As the largest economy in the world today, the United States occupies an irreplaceable position in international relations and has an unrivalled role and influence in other countries. This is a basic fact in today's international relations that we must fully recognize and understand. However, at the same time, it is also indisputable that the economic, social and political crises in the United States are deepening. The severe disorder of the world plus the struggle between the Democratic Party and Republican Party has brought the elites of the United States increasing despair. In this context, Trump was elected president of the United States and became the host of the White House. This "black swan event" is further tearing apart American society, and we don't know what will happen to the United States in the future. Scholars engaged on international issues are extremely worried about the future of the United States, the disasters brought to and the influence on the international community, and especially the impact and challenges to China-U.S. relations.

## **II. Great-power diplomacy with Chinese characteristics has become a powerful engine for the healthy development of international relations**

What should we do in such a chaotic world? In the face of this century's question, the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese leaders have made objective and rational responses and delivered a satisfactory and widely-welcomed answer by taking calm observations and measures and considering the situation.

Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, China has held high the banner of "peaceful development, win-win cooperation and built a community of shared future for mankind" as the overall objective of its foreign policy. In other words, "peaceful development, win-win cooperation, and building a community of shared future for mankind" have become the basic guidelines that China follows in dealing with international affairs and coping with external challenges.

In November 2014, President Xi Jinping chaired the Central Meeting on Foreign Affairs Work in Beijing. At the meeting, President Xi proposed that Chinese diplomacy should have Chinese characteristics, manner and style, and made a comprehensive plan for and deployment of great-power diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. After the meeting, efforts have been made to build a new type of great-power diplomacy, and continue to construct a good-neighborly and friendly neighborhood has become the focus and emphasis of China's

diplomacy. Under the direct guidance of President Xi Jinping, China's great-power diplomacy has been achieving new successes and accumulating new experience.

China-U.S. relations are the top priority in great-power diplomacy today. President Xi Jinping attaches great importance to China-U.S. relations. Shortly after taking office, he proposed that China and the United States should build a new type of great-power relations featuring non-conflict, non-confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation. He has put forward specific suggestions and propositions on the future development of China-U.S. relations on different occasions. Four of them are particularly worthy of our attention, i.e. "enhancing mutual trust and grasping the direction; respecting each other, increasing common interests and dissolving differences; equality and mutual benefit, deepening cooperation; focusing on the people and deepening friendships".

Although significant changes in domestic and foreign affairs of the United States have taken place since Trump came to power, China has still taken a constructive attitude, continued to strengthen communication with the United States, guided the relations between the two countries to get rid of the interference of irrational thinking and return to a mature development track integrating cooperation and competition, and made efforts to drive the U.S. government to accept the principle of the new type of great-power relations proposed by China. When Tillerson, the US Secretary of State, visited China, he defined China-U.S. relations as "non-conflicting, non-confrontational, mutually respectful and a win-win cooperation". This is exactly the connotation of President Xi Jinping's "New type of great-power relations between China and the United States".

On the Taiwan issue, Trump, at the beginning of taking office, has talked on the phone with Tsai Ing-wen, and has once violated China's bottom line by deviating from the conventional policy. However later, he reiterated that he would abide by the "One-China" policy. In the face of the new variables in China-U.S. relations, China adheres to the principle of "fighting without breaking up" to unswervingly safeguard its national core interests and firmly grasp the general direction of healthy development in relations between the two countries. This standpoint will never change.

China-Russia relations play an important role in today's world. Both sides confirmed that the central task of the development of China-Russia relations is to increase political mutual trust, comprehensively expand pragmatic cooperation, and strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the international community. It is not a coincidence that Russia was been the first country Xi Jinping visited after he became President. At the Russian Institute of International Relations, President Xi Jinping made a comprehensive, systematic and in-depth elaboration of his basic understanding of some major issues in today's world, and expounded China's basic views and propositions on foreign affairs for the first time. In 2014, the Sochi Winter Olympics was boycotted by the West. President Xi Jinping made a special trip to attend it, with the purpose of showing the international community the stability and reliability of the strategic partnership of cooperation between China and Russia. After that, China and Russia signed a series of documents to deepen the strategic partnership of cooperation. In 2015, the leaders of both sides led troops in attending the high profile "5.9

military parade" in Moscow and the "9.3 military parade" in China, which further showed the international community the new quality and level of the China–Russia strategic cooperation partnership, as well as the broad prospects for the comprehensive cooperation between China and Russia as emerging powers and friendly neighbors.

The relationship between China and the European Union is one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world today. China long ago defined China and the European Union as the two major forces for safeguarding world peace, the two major markets for promoting common development, and the two major civilizations for promoting human progress, and two sides have reached a consensus on this.

In March 2014, President Xi Jinping visited Europe a year after he became the president, and visited European Union headquarters. China and the European Union have jointly issued the Joint Statement on Deepening the China–EU Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for Mutual Benefit and Win–win Cooperation, with the purpose of deepening China–EU relations based on the principles of equality, mutual trust and mutual respect, to jointly create four major partnerships in peace, growth, reform and culture, and the two sides put forward the short-term and medium-and-long-term goals for the development of their partnership. These are the new contributions to the stable development of international relations.

While the EU is facing numerous challenges and uncertain prospects, China takes a firm position in continuing to firmly support the integrated construction of the EU and to expand cooperation between China and the EU in various fields such as high and new technologies, infrastructure and finance. The pace of China–EU cooperation is accelerating.

China attaches great importance to relations with great powers and places more emphasis on relationships with neighboring countries. The central meeting on foreign affairs work held in November 2014 was an especially important meeting of the Chinese leadership since the founding of new China, centering on neighboring affairs and neighboring diplomacy.

President Xi Jinping has visited other Asian countries many times and attended multilateral activities held in neighboring countries and regions, with the purpose of building a community of interests and a community of responsibility in Asia and promoting the construction of a community of shared future for mankind. Although there are a lot of problems in Asia, and China is facing increasing risks, pressures and challenges, the controllable and plastic features have not changed. China has the ability to lead the sound development of its regional diplomacy. The policy of friendship and partnership with neighboring countries as well as the good-neighborly and friendly policy, i.e. creating an amicable, secure and prosperous neighborhood, and especially the neighborhood diplomacy concepts of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, proposed by President Xi Jinping have gained more and more recognition. China's unique role in the Asia–Pacific Region will eventually be recognized and accepted by the neighboring countries and the entire international community.

### **III. "The Belt and Road Initiative" has opened up a new path of peaceful development and win–win cooperation**

During his trip to Central Asia and Southeast Asia in September to October 2013, President Xi Jinping put forward the initiative of "Expanding China's cooperation with relevant countries to jointly build the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road". This initiative, which accords with the historical and social trend of economic globalization, cultural diversification and social informatization, aims to promote the orderly and free flow of economic activities throughout the world, allocate resources efficiently, drive in-depth integration of markets, enable countries along the routes of the Belt and Road to coordinate their economic policies, and create a new pattern and framework for regional cooperation that is open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial.

The Belt and Road focuses on Policy Coordination, Facilitates Connectivity, Unimpeded Trade, Financial Integration and Personal Exchange. Directly driven by China, the international community has increasingly and widely supported and participated in the construction of the Belt and Road. Now the Belt and Road has not only become a necessity for meeting China's expansion and deepening its opening to the outside world, but has also generated a powerful momentum for achieving inclusive development, cooperative development, integrated development and joint development throughout the world. It is the first initiative of the new century with this kind of inspirational influence in the world today.

China has established the Silk Road Fund for the promotion of the Belt and Road, initiated the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and set up many "corridors". These initiatives and plans are becoming reality. The China-Europe Block Trains connecting China with Europe are being built into a world-renowned logistics brand with international competitiveness and a good reputation. The initial gains and achievements of the Belt and Road Initiative have far exceeded our expectations. The evaluation of the Belt and Road from the West, including U.S. President Trump, has become more pragmatic, rational and positive. For countries such as the U.S., Japan and the EU, it is quite a realistic choice to participate in the construction of the Belt and Road. China has always had an open attitude and is willing to push the Belt and Road to the whole world.

The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was successfully held in Beijing in May 2017. President Xi Jinping elaborated on the historical origins, objectives and principles of the Belt and Road Initiative as well as the historical significance of carrying forward the Silk Road spirit in his address. The international community has also become more aware that the Belt and Road is essentially an innovation by which China is guiding neighboring countries to carry out mutual beneficial cooperation, drive the integrated development of the world, and jointly open up the roads to peace, prosperity, opening, innovation and civilization, and it is a new way and the realistic choice to lead the international community toward the community of common destiny.

Today, the Belt and Road Initiative has become a joint action by all countries in the world, especially developing countries, in cooperative development, inclusive development, integrated development and joint development. The Chinese nation in comprehensive rejuvenation will make its unique historical contribution to the cause of human progress.

# "Born in China" but good for the whole world



**Cheng Li**

Director of the John L. Thornton China Center of Brookings Institution

People today often emphasize differences, such as those between countries, races, cultures and social systems. It's the existence of such differences that has given rise to contradictions, conflicts and even wars.

I would like to use "Born in China," a documentary directed by Lu Chuan, to highlight how China can narrow its differences with other countries and better promote cultural exchanges, which is also what Taihe Institute has been striving to popularize.

Mutual misunderstanding and mutual mistrust are the main problems affecting Sino-US ties. To deepen mutual understanding and increase people-to-people exchanges, China and the United States should have bilateral exchanges in almost all fields of society. For that, however, they have to first identify the areas where they share common elements and then set up a partnership through which they can deepen mutual communication, narrow their perceptive differences, and gradually learn to accept each other as a whole, rather than in piecemeal.

"Born in China," co-produced by Shanghai Media Group and The Walt Disney Company, was released last year. The touching documentary follows the lives and fortunes of three animal families – giant panda, snow leopard, and golden snub-nosed monkey – in the wild. That the three animals are found almost exclusively in China might have something to do with its success at the box office. It even invited praise from the US media outlets such as The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Seattle Times upon its release in the US. In fact, it has an approval rating of 85 percent on Rotten Tomatoes, a US film review website, and 88 percent among Google users. It has also won awards at several international film festivals this year.

Documentaries are not generally a commercial success, let alone box office hits. They don't attract much media attention either. But "Born in China" is different. Its success can

be attributed mainly to three factors: its high production quality; its explicit theme advocating coexistence between humans and nature and their common development; and the effective and coordinated cooperation between a Chinese director and foreign filmmakers and technicians which manifests that China is capable of making films and TV programs of international standard.

The quality of a work determines its character. Many people in today's world believe all forms of art are a means to gain publicity or profit or both; they are wrong. The "Born in China" team spent about 300 hours shooting for materials in 79 spots across three years. At a time when even some creative minds are pursuing instant profit, and the art circle is rife with shallowness and excessive commercial pursuit, the production team of "Born in China" deserves the highest praise for ignoring the lure of the luster and, instead, focusing on good content through in-depth research and hard work.

Lu's success, however, is not limited to "Born in China." As early as 2004, his *Mountain Patrol* won extensive praise. And "City of Life and Death," another film he made, won the approval of the international filmmaking circle.

"A good film should focus on stories that are readable to all," Lu once said. When it comes to "Born in China," he believes wildlife offers a borderless theme that can be appreciated by audiences across the world.

The human spirit is the soul of art. "Mainstream Values with a Modern Spirit," a book published in 1955, says different cultures most of the time reveal the same values. And Lung Ying-tai, a Taiwan-born essayist and cultural critic, believes people from different cultures can have seamless exchanges on happiness and sorrow. The two views emphasize the significance of the human spirit and cultural exchanges among countries, which can serve as a cornerstone of spiritual communication among different people.

Performing arts, more often than not, is the result of teamwork. High team spirit and coordination usually yields high quality work, and vice-versa. "Born in China" is a co-production, with Disney providing part of the finance and technicians, British Broadcasting Corporation providing highly experienced camerapersons, and Lu and his team of filmmakers and writers from the US and some European countries making up the rest of the production team. The film owes its success to the strong coordination and cooperation among them.

The documentary's success also reflects the efforts China has made to boost its soft power, through arrangements such as Sino-US cultural exchanges. As Luo Jianbo, a professor at the Party School of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said: "When books go abroad in large volumes through translations, behind them is the substantial fiscal support of the country."

If a country wants to improve its soft power abroad, it needs to carry out cultural programs tailored for foreign audiences. In this sense, movies can serve as effective agents. The success of "Born in China" in the US can also help China to fine-tune its cultural exchange programs with foreign countries as part of its efforts to widen its cultural influence in the world and boost its soft power.

Misunderstanding is a big obstacle in Sino-US relations, so strengthening mutual trust should always be integral to bilateral ties. To remove this obstacle, effective communication is needed which, with the help of cultural exchanges, can deepen mutual understanding and trust.

Whether or not effective communication is carried out in Sino-US social and political fields will decide to what extent China's influence will expand in the world. Only by properly handling its internal affairs can China possibly expand its global influence and contribute more for the betterment of the world.



# Perceived Gap in Personal Exchanges between China and the United States



**Liru Cui**

**Former Director of the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations**

Perception is also known as Cognition. From years of communication with my American peers and friends, I think it makes some sense to link perception to personal exchange.

As everyone knows, the United States and China are the world's first and second largest economies, and the two major powers, but with huge differences. The differences are the gap and distance. Without regard to the geographical distance, the gaps between the two countries in development are obvious, and the gaps in concepts are also great. Meanwhile, social and personal exchange faces the same problem.

Social and personal exchange, as one of the four important mechanisms in relationships between China and the United States, is especially important in the new period of the development of current China-U.S. relations, because now the China-U.S. relations have entered a new period or a new pattern. The cultural conflict has just been mentioned. However, in fact the topic more widely discussed in the field of international relations is "Thucydides' Trap", namely the inevitability of conflicts between established and rising powers.

In 2016, Trump won the U.S. presidential election, and a new government was formed in January 2017. China and the United States are facing a new situation. In April, President Xi Jinping and President Trump held a summit meeting at the Mar-a-Lago Resort in Palm Beach, Florida, U.S.A. The meeting concluded an important consensus that China-U.S. relations are very important and indispensable to the development and security of the two countries, the Asia Pacific region and even the world.

China and the United States face many complicated challenges and problems that need to be dealt with and resolved. Therefore, the two sides agreed to establish the four mechanisms of diplomatic security dialogue, comprehensive economic dialogue, law enforcement and network security dialogue, and social and cultural dialogue, which are of

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course established on the basis of the original dialogue. Compared with the previous three dialogues, the social and cultural dialogue has the unique function of preventing conflicts between the two countries. The reason is that, in my view, the gaps between people and people, countries and countries, nationalities and nationalities can be roughly divided into two causes: one is the gap in interests, or the gap in existence, because that different existence results in different standpoints and determines the concept and consciousness; but on the other hand, sometimes the same existence may also produce a difference in concept and consciousness, because different cultures result in a Perceived Gap. The great gaps between China and the United States are closely related to concept and perception. So what is the Perceived Gap? I interpret it as both parties claiming to be in the right in the dialogues between China and the United States. Logically, the debates should make the truth clearer. Unfortunately, it doesn't become clearer in the end. What's wrong? The answer is they don't listen to each other, or one doesn't understand the other. Such a dialogue results in limited functionality. It is very common that there are totally different perspectives on perception between China and the United States, between China and Japan, and between China and other countries.

The differences in interests between China and the United States are huge, which are caused by many factors, such as the different stages of development between China and the United States. Now the United States is continuing to promote the protection of intellectual property rights. China also attaches much importance to it. However, 10 or 20 years ago, China did not place top priority on this issue, because from the development stage and interests of China at the time, the protection of intellectual property rights was not as important as development. However, now the issue is important because if we do not resolve this issue, China's development will be in trouble. That is to say, changes in our existence and development have resulted in changes of concept.

For example, I recently talked with Americans about the balance of nuclear strategies between China and the United States. China and the United States have something in common in this respect. For instance, they jointly maintain the international nuclear non-proliferation system, to which the mutual coordination and joint response to the North Korean nuclear issue relate. However, there are wide gaps between China and the United States in nuclear policy. For example, China has declared that it "will never use nuclear weapons first" and that it will never use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear countries under any circumstances, but the United States has not announced and insisted on not announcing this policy. Now we are discussing a nuclear-free world and whether China and the United States can actively take some measures besides controlling nuclear non-proliferation. For example, China hopes that the United States, possessing the powerful conventional strength, will declare that it will not use nuclear weapons first. This issue is also a focus of controversy between China and the United States.

Another concept related to nuclear deterrence is that the two sides can use nuclear weapons to strike each other, but the mutual vulnerability makes both sides afraid of conflict and thus results in a deterrent. But this concept is unacceptable to the United States. Why? We found out through dialogue that the United States is not thinking the same as China. A former Pacific commander of the United States said that the policy of "never use nuclear weapons first" is unverifiable and doesn't make much sense. From my point of view, the strategy and the global status of the United States is based on strength. The United States could retain all possible means, but will not depart from its strategic culture by binding its own



hands and feet in advance. However, the United States also has a similar wording, saying that "Nuclear weapons are the ultimate deterrent". There is something in common between this wording and China's "never use nuclear weapons first". The United States, of course, understands that the nuclear weapons cannot be used casually. They are only available as a last resort, which cannot be ruled out.

I propose a different view on the promise of "never using nuclear weapons first" that is considered nonsensical by the United States. This promise may make no sense in terms of the culture of the United States, but is appropriate to the culture of China because it is a very solemn political commitment of a national government, and is guaranteed by China's credibility and standing. Where does China's credibility guarantee come from? It is a guarantee from the words and deeds in the accumulated diplomatic credibility from the establishment of the People's Republic of China to the present. Internationally, this credibility is reliable and thus makes sense. If the United States believes that its own national credibility makes any sense, then such a guarantee will certainly produce positive results. The United States general agreed with what I said, and the exchange achieved its effect.

What are the more important gaps? The United States, as a global power, has a system of alliances. The United States has the obligation to guarantee the security of its allies, among which the nuclear umbrella is very important. If the United States uses the concepts of "mutual vulnerability" or "never use nuclear weapons first", the security of its allies will have problems, so the United States does not think these concepts are viable.

This example embodies cultural gaps, but more importantly differences in interests and strategic goals. All of these constitute the Perceived Gap I just mentioned. It requires mutual understanding through exchanges between China and the United States. Can we find common values? I believe the answer is yes.

Here we're going to talk about personal exchange which is inseparable from a mission. Personal exchange is the exchange, communication and understanding between people. Chinese and American students going to study in each other's countries are the best ambassadors. In fact, mutual understanding will certainly have a positive influence on policy making. A good example is Mr. Kissinger, who was not originally a China Watcher. However, his book, *On China*, published two years ago showed that he has reached a very deep level of understanding of China. So now he can function as good medium of communication between China and the United States, and has exerted an influence on both sides, by which to some extent this gap has been crossed. The reason he became a master of international politics is related to his deep understanding of both China and the United States.

Apart from personal exchange, what should we do in relation to expert-to-expert exchange? Can we try to overcome the perceived gap to a certain extent? I don't think it's easy. The perceived gap may result from an interest problem or a conceptual problem, and can be narrowed step by step through existential change. For example, after China has narrowed the existential gap with the United States, things in common between China and the United States will increase. The conceptual problem is more complicated. In addition to the mutual understanding between people, we should make more progress in some concepts. We have long had two concepts: one is harmony in diversity, which is a very good path towards creating a harmonious world, but we still lack the scope to reach harmony in diversity. Currently there are only few measures for building such a path and bridge, and more is needed to emphasize its actual effect. The other concept is seeking common ground while

preserving differences. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, China-U.S. relations have been developing for more than 40 years. Due to the differences between our two countries, we can't achieve immediate results in everything. "Common ground" means common interest, but we need to cross from the current interests to greater value. Many guests have mentioned seeking common values. There must be differences in values, so what should we do on the differences? At this moment, we need to find a higher value, and higher value identification across different values. It is also an important concept that contributes to a more constructive relationship between China and the United States.

Finally, experts will also need to put forward some solutions to the problem of personal exchanges. For example, from the cultural and historical perspective, can we find more that needs to be communicated now in the face of the specific issues and policy differences? Actual practice will have a more realistic influence on the policy than the concept.

## Cultural Conflict and Integration



**Yifan Ding**

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Recently, the intensified "cultural conflicts" in Europe and the successive terrorist attacks in Barcelona and Brussels reminded us of the concept of political conflicts put forward by the American politician Huntington ten years ago. At that time, the bipolar system had disintegrated and he predicted that conflicts between civilizations would occur in the world of the future. Many of the events that have happened today seem to prove the foresight of Mr. Huntington, but there is still much dispute on one of his predictions. He had predicted that "Ultimately, Islamic Civilization may ally with Confucian Civilization (mainly referring to

Chinese civilization) against the western alliances, while western Christianity may bury old hatchets to unite with the Orthodox Eastern Church (Russia), forming two new opposing camps with the former". However, so far the situation has not followed the direction of his predictions.

### **I. Cultural conflicts have remained short in the Chinese history**

Historically, Christian Civilization had hoped to jointly cope with the rise of Islam with the Chinese Confucian Civilization, but there has never been any union between Islamic civilization and Chinese Confucian Civilization. In the 13th century, the French King Louis IX and the Armenian King, entrusted by the Pope, sent emissaries successively to the East for an alliance, in the hope of jointly coping with the rise of the Ottoman Empire at the time and dissolving the Islamic threat to Europe. Möngke, the Great Khan of the Yuan dynasty at the time, agreed to the request of the West and dispatched a Mongolian force on a western expedition. Persia and Baghdad were conquered successively, and finally the Mongols' attack on Egypt was withdrawn because of the death of Möngke. At this point, the short-lived alliance between Mongols and Christians came to an end. However, no historical evidence shows that the Chinese Confucian Civilization has had any alliance with Islamic Civilization.

### **II. Cultural integration has run throughout the Chinese history**

Starting from the Tang and Song dynasties, a large number of foreign religions and civilizations began to enter the central plains area. The Chinese civilization is a very inclusive civilization. After these religions entered China, there were some local frictions, but no major war on the pretext of religion has occurred. On the contrary, from the Tang Dynasty to the Yuan Dynasty in the Chinese history, different civilizations and religions coexisted in China, and some of them were gradually absorbed and assimilated by Chinese civilization. For example, Kublai Khan once organized a debate on three religions including Christianity, Islam and Buddhism. Finally, Kublai Khan believed that all of them were reasonable in some sense, and the religious ideas played an important role in shaping and transmitting popular values. Later on, he allocated a special fund to build a number of temples of different religions, today called mosques, churches and temples respectively, to allow these religions' to propagate and survive in China. This example proves that these different and even mutually exclusive religions can coexist in the history of Chinese civilization.

By the end of the Ming Dynasty, the Italian missionary Matteo Ricci came to China to preach Catholicism and found that China had implemented the "Three Religions in One" ideology since the Yuan Dynasty. From the all-inclusive attitude of Chinese rulers toward different religions, Matteo Ricci concluded that the Catholicism could survive and preach in China as long as it respected Chinese Confucian culture. Against this background, many western missionaries including Americans came to China to carry out missionary activities in the late Ming and early Qing dynasties. In the end, these missionaries who meant to preach Catholicism in China were influenced by the inclusiveness of Chinese civilization. A lot of them have become the messengers for spreading Chinese civilization in the West. They translated the essence of Chinese civilization into Latin and their native languages, and became the earliest Western sinologists.

Chinese civilization has historically been an integrated civilization. The most striking example is Buddhism. Although Buddhism originated from India, after being introduced into China, it was assimilated and Confucianized to form the Mahayana culture of Buddhism, which was later called Zen culture. Since then, Zen culture has spread from China to Japan, the Korean peninsula and neighboring countries, and evolved into a Chinese Buddhist culture. Zen culture has now become deeply rooted in Chinese culture and become an important part of it.

Another example is Islam. In fact, to some extent, the Islamic civilization was also assimilated and absorbed by Chinese civilization after it entered China. Now there are many Muslim countries in Southeast Asia, of which Indonesia, with a population of more than 200 million, is the largest. But people may ignore the fact that Islam in these countries was not transmitted from Arabia, but from China. Zheng He, the important messenger in spreading Islam to Southeast Asia, was a Muslim. In his several trips to the West, he spread Islam, already Confucianized in China, to many countries in Southeast Asia. Therefore, Islam with Chinese features in Southeast Asia is not radical but quite moderate.

### **III. China's inclusive culture is the hope for the integration of world civilizations**

As shown above, the Chinese civilization has historically absorbed and assimilated various introduced civilizations, by retaining their essence and getting rid of the factors that are aggressive and completely exclusive. Chinese culture is not a culture that repels other civilizations, but one that is inclusive and can absorb useful contents from other cultures. In the globalization age, different interests can sustain and co-exist under the inclusiveness of Chinese civilization.

The Belt and Road Initiative also contains China's inclusive culture. Only such a culture can resolve the cultural conflicts between countries along the routes. The West believes that it is impossible to avoid the issue of cultural conflict while China promotes the initiative. However, it is exactly because of China's experience and precedents in the integration of civilizations and its promise not to export its own standards and values when implementing the external development strategy that made the difficulties encountered in the process of promoting the Belt and Road Initiative much smaller than expected.

I believe that in the future, only such an inclusive culture as China's may be the way to establish world civilization as integrated instead of conflicting.

## Session Summaries

**People-to-People Exchange Session****Promoting Sustained and Healthy Development of China-U.S. Social and Individual Exchanges****Hailong Wu**

President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs

The first round of China-U.S. dialogues on social and personal exchange is a dialogue that serves both as a link between past and future and is also a process by which both sides can become more familiar with each other and jointly plan the ways and topics for future exchanges. In addition to government officials, professional authorities of relevant fields should also be invited to participate in the dialogue. This will facilitate further in-depth exchanges and interaction between the two sides. The dialogue may begin with the overall high-level talks, followed by parallel sessions centering on topics in related fields. In order to ensure that the social and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries are targeted and achieve better results, the two sides should draw up a list of issues that need to and can be resolved in the near future within the overall framework.

The means to narrow gaps and variations between different civilizations fall into no more than two types: conquest by force, and communication and cultural exchange. The former is inappropriate and unacceptable. The latter, although not a cure-all, has a lower cost and is more feasible. The objects of cultural exchange and communication can be divided into three categories: 1) one that is friendly to you, 2) one that do not understand you or is prejudiced against you, and 3) one that is hostile and unfriendly to you. Among them, the second category is the one we most need to communicate and exchange with, and the third category can be taken into appropriate consideration but we should be prepared for long-term efforts. In the way of external exchanges, we should be frank and sincere, lay more stress on practical results, and speak in a way that that the other party can understand.

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## **Stephen A. Orlins**

### **President of the National Committee on United States–China Relations**

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Regardless of the good or bad relations between China and the United States, people-to-people exchanges have always been the foundation of the relations between the two countries. It's a miracle that earthshaking changes have taken place in China today, but many Americans don't even know it. China needs to carry out more effective propaganda to tell Chinese stories to let more Americans understand the changes in China. At present, the willingness of Chinese students to study in the United States has not diminished, but the number of American students studying in China has declined. The employment prospect is an important factor. In order to change this situation, the Chinese government can introduce policies to increase scholarships in the near future, and can make some adjustments in the economic field in the long run. The United States and China face common problems in combating terrorism and coping with climate change. Through effective people-to-people exchanges, the two sides can promote mutual understanding and become partners. In addition, both the Chinese and U.S. governments should strive to create a more favorable policy environment and conditions for the enhancement of people-to-people exchanges, so as to avoid further strengthening inherent prejudices due to blocked exchange.

## **Wei Da**

### **Director of American Institute of the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations**

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In the future, it is the asymmetry in governmental and social effects between China and the United States that most needs to be adjusted through social and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. During the exchanges in the past, China had a strong governmental drive, while the United States mainly relied on the strength of civil society, which is determined by their different national conditions and political situations. China needs to play down the official colors, and the United States needs more government input and traction. However, we do not expect too much from the U.S. changes. With China's increasing strength, the gaps between China and the United States have gradually narrowed. This has made the United States less confident than before in many ways, and enhanced the guard against China. This will, to some extent, affect the social and personal exchanges between China and the United States. For example, the United States has begun to have a contest with China in the film industry. At the same time, China needs to further enhance its confidence, especially in respect of culture and education. The

different choices and tendencies in the application of network information technologies have resulted in the phenomenon of "parallel universes" between China and the United States. For example, the Chinese people commonly use WeChat, while the American people are more accustomed to using Facebook. This has, to a certain extent, affected the social and personal exchanges between China and the United States. Now, Chinese young people are less interested in the United States than they are used to be, and their willingness to study in the United States is reduced due to the inconvenience of life, racial problems, and concerns about personal safety. The number of American students studying in China is also declining, in view of the difficulty of learning Chinese, environmental pollution, limited development in China, etc. The situation is worrying. Looking forward to China-U.S. relations in the next 50 years, it is necessary to promote in-depth exchange between the younger generations of the two countries so as to further shape and enhance the mutual recognition between the young people of China and the United States. In addition, social and personal exchanges between China and the United States also need to be more pragmatic and strategic. For example, the two sides can consider pushing forward cooperative demonstration projects in science and technology, health and the environment in the countries along the routes of the Belt and Road.

## **Travis Tanner**

### **Chairman of the US-China Strong Foundation**

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Youth is the future of a country. Social and people-to-people exchanges should give priority to promoting exchanges among young people and give more support in project arrangements, and at the same time governments, schools and other stakeholders should be involved. Activities such as the miniature Davos forum and APEC conference can be held to allow young elites and students of China, US and other countries to carry out full discussions on issues of common concern. At present, the people-to-people exchange activities conducted by non-governmental and regional civil organizations have not achieved much success. In the future, it is necessary to establish more specific objectives and further strengthen organizational coordination. Establishing a set of scientific methods for evaluating the influence and function of personal exchange is of great significance to enhancing the efficiency of personal exchange, encouraging and stimulating participation enthusiasm and solving actual problems. Based on the first round of China-U.S. dialogues on social and people-to-people exchange, a joint statement should be published in the near future to allow peoples of the two countries to fully understand the current situation of China-U.S. relations, become aware of the differences and gaps between them, and put forward ways to narrow differences and gaps and promote mutual benefits.



## **Cheng Li**

### **Director of the John L.Thornton China Center of Brookings Institution**

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Think-tank exchanges are an important way for social and people-to-people exchanges between China and the United States. Since the reform and opening up of China, the think-tank exchanges between China and the United States have achieved a lot of achievements and have played a very important and constructive role in the development of bilateral relations. In the future, any conflict or war between China and the United States is unlikely to result from cultural conflicts or ideological conflicts, or even conflicts of interest, but from misunderstandings. The exchanges and dialogues between the think tanks of the two countries are very important to avoid misunderstanding and misreading between the two sides. Therefore, both the Chinese and the U.S governments should create a more favorable environment and more convenient conditions for sustained, extensive and in-depth exchanges between the think tanks. At present, academic research and educational exchange in the United States is facing a shortage of funds, and especially, the funds allocated by the U.S. government for supporting diplomatic research shows a downward trend. This is a very serious problem.

## **Joseph Merante**

### **CEO of Humpty Dumpty Institute of the United States**

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The United States has always attached great importance to pushing forward the implementation of its national strategies through cultural diplomacy. In the 1950s, the United States launched "Jazz Diplomacy" against the Soviet Union, effectively changing the Soviets' views and attitude toward the United States and improving the U.S.-Soviet relations. In the 1960s, the United States expanded its musical diplomacy to Eastern Europe and achieved good results. At the beginning of the 21st century, fighting against Islamic extremism became an important strategic concern for the United States, and the United States began to leverage hip-hop music to influence young Arabs aged 12 to 17. The United States attaches great importance to improving its cultural soft power by cultivating foreign talent in culture and art, in which enterprises and non-governmental organizations have played an important and irreplaceable role in leading cultural exchanges and promoting national cultures. Such a pattern is worth learning for China. Compared with the United States, the Chinese government has greater advantages based on its stronger influence on all industries and a more adequate budget. With in-depth development of globalization and the rise of China's economy, China is expected to occupy a larger share in the global cultural market. Moreover, China should make better use of cultural and artistic exchanges beloved by the masses to improve its influence.



## **Zhipin Cao**

### **Deputy Dean of School of Journalism and Communication, South China University of Technology**

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The incumbent US President, Trump, is a pragmatist and therefore, is likely to hold a soft boycott attitude to some of the less pragmatic cultural exchange activities. The close economic and trade relations and the exchanges in education, science and technology between China and the United States have determined the inevitability of the sustainable development of people-to-people exchange between the two sides. At present, education, science and technology are the main fields of personal exchange between China and the United States. With the current developments, the cultural creativity industry has also increasingly become an important channel of communication. In the future, China should make more use of non-governmental channels to integrate resources and develop new exchange topics and approaches. For example, China should carry out diversified educational and scientific and technological exchanges, expand the domain of time and space for student exchanges between China and the United States, integrate Chinese culture in Chinese-made products, and effectively utilize the We-Media propagation mode, etc.

## **Julia Pierrepont III**

### **Director and Film Producer of Hollywood**

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How to do well in external propaganda by strengthening cooperation with Hollywood and carrying out people-to-people exchange and public diplomacy through film and television works should become an important focus of China's social and personal exchanges between China and the United States in the future. Film and television plays are indispensable cultural and entertainment consumer goods in people's daily lives. Hollywood movies have great influence around the world. China can learn from Hollywood's technology and creativity through more popular channels to promote its cultural values in an approachable manner. In addition, game production is also an important channel and method to communicate information. The U.S. federal government and some state governments have attached great importance to this work and have given much financial support. The Chinese government should also pay more attention to this.

Both China and the United States should promote the establishment of more youth exchange programs to allow the younger generations of the two countries to participate more in the construction of China-U.S. relations; this is crucial to the future development of relationships between the two countries. Besides, it is also very important to further strengthen provincial and state exchanges between China and the United States. For example, California and Massachusetts are very important political divisions in the United States; the governors and the local politicians of the two states have disagreed with Trump in many of their views, and therefore, they can participate in local social and people-to-people exchanges between China and the United States in a very direct way.

# People-to-People Exchange between China and the Middle East under the Belt and Road Initiative

**Yihong Wu**

Senior Researcher of Taihe Institute

Recently, the Egyptian journalist Hani Muhammad published a feature article titled Living, even if it's as far away as China by taking Arabic famous aphorism of "Seek knowledge, even if it's as far away as China", describing his impressions of China as an Egyptian Muslim. He mentioned, "Before I went to China, I knew nothing about China but the biased positions in the Western media and foreign films about the great Chinese people. After living and working here for nearly a year, I found that the country has explicit laws and regulations from the routine management and public transport to individual behaviors and religious belief. Everything is equal and orderly."

This was in an article published by Hani Muhammad in the China-Arabic media after his investigation and interview in China when he participated in the third phase of the "China Africa Press Center" program.

The "China Africa Press Center" program is a pragmatic cooperation initiative announced at the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in 2012. The third phase of the program was launched in February and ended in mid-December last year. The dozens of journalists from African countries who participated in the program, all agreed that studying and working in China brought them an in-depth understanding of a real, open, harmonious, stable and flourishing China. They believed that China's successful development experience had strong significance that could be emulated by Africa to realize its autonomous and sustainable development.

After more than 30 years of reform and opening up, China has become the world's second

largest economy and an important force in maintaining world peace and stability. China's success gives some enlightenment to the Middle East in search of a way out, and "Looking east" has become a trend.

Samir, a Jordanian Scholar, pointed out in his book *The Future of Arabs and China* that "The Arabs, who used to be rarely concerned about the East, have always been the followers and imitators of the West. Yet history has proved that what the West has done has brought greater chaos to the Arab world. The rise of China has provided an example for the Arabs to solve the problems that have plagued them for a long time. Therefore, they should look to the East for Arab rejuvenation with the power of China."

Mohammed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), stated that the UAE hoped to further expand its opening to China and further strengthen the relations with China. He said, "I have studied in Western countries such as UK and US, but my heart is toward the East, because we are all Easterners, and having the same genes, we can communicate more smoothly."

Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, China has actively participated in the mediation of hot issues in the Middle East and has played an increasingly important and constructive role. China's response to urgent issues in Middle East has undergone gradual transition from an overall unconventional and productive thought to a proactive, plan-strengthening, governance-participating and influence-expanding thought. China has established objectives, policies and mechanisms and initially formed diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in response to urgent issues in the Middle East. Under this overall framework, a flexible and diversified foreign policy has also led to active people-to-people exchange. Especially, with a new round of reform and opening up and the Belt and Road Initiative implemented by the state, China's external people-to-people exchange has continued to accelerate in expanded fields and in a more diversified and flexible manner, which greatly contributes to China's communications with the outside world. Overall, personal exchanges between China and the countries of the Middle East in recent years have the following characteristics:

### **I. Established ways of getting along with different civilizations, religions and social systems**

Both Chinese and Islamic civilizations have produced many outstanding achievements which are similar and close to each other in many respects and have greatly contributed to human civilization. However, both civilizations are also facing difficulties. In the process of integrating traditional culture and modernization, the collision between religious tradition and secularization will run through the entire development process of civilization.

Since 2012, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Organization of the Islamic Conference have successively held three seminars on "Chinese and Islamic Civilizations". In the words of Harriet Erel, President of the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture, "Through joint research, both sides are dedicated to revealing the unknown history of exchanges between China and the Islamic world, present the extensive and in-depth exchanges between the two sides, and discuss the significance of ancient contacts between

the two sides to contemporary exchanges." To some extent, this equal, mutually beneficial, win-win, historically minded and prospective interaction and exchange has reflected the way of getting along between different civilizations, religions and social systems.

## **II. The role of media transmission has been highlighted and Arab countries are more aware of China**

According to Dow Jones data statistics, the Arab media reported a total of 54,757 articles on China from January 2013 to December 2015, including 16,964 in 2013, 18,076 in 2014, and 19,717 in 2015. In terms of quantity, the China-related reports released by Arab media have been increasing year by year since 2013, increasing by 6.6% in 2014 over 2013, and by 9.1% in 2015 over 2014.

In recent years, the Chinese media has also strengthened their reporting strength in the Middle East region, and hired many Arabic reporters and journalists, who have carried out comprehensive, objective and fair reports in the forms of pictures, videos, etc. in both Arabic and English. In the reports, they have also paid attention to reflecting balance and safeguarding the overall interests of the Arab countries. At the same time, a variety of symposia and promotional conferences, as well as dialogues with political leaders, think-tank experts, media people and other major groups were held in the forms of "bringing in" and "going global", such that the understanding and mutual trust between the two sides have been deepened, and the development of bilateral relations effectively promoted.

## **III. Focusing on the future and cultivating a new generation in understanding and knowledge of China**

In 2014, China received 340,000 tourists from Arab countries, and nearly 1 million Chinese tourists visited Arab countries. China has successively set up 11 Confucius Institutes and three Confucius Classrooms in nine Arab countries, training a total of nearly 20,000 officials and technical personnel for the Arab countries. At present, there are more than 1,000 Chinese tour guides in Egypt, and the number of direct flights between China and Egypt is nearly 1,000 each year.

2017 represents the fifth year of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Youth Ambassador Program, launched by Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, UAE, hosted by the Crown Prince's General Office, and co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE. From July 23rd to August 7th, 18 outstanding students from top universities such as Zayed University, Khalifa University and the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Institute as outstanding youth representatives of the UAE visited Huawei, Alibaba, the China National Nuclear Corporation, China CEFC Energy Company Limited, Harbin Electric Corporation, Hafei, etc. to learn from China's leading technologies in multiple fields; had a panel discussion with Chinese teachers and students speaking Arabic in Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing Sport University, Shanghai International Studies University and other universities; and visited the National Museum, the Imperial Palace, the Great Wall and Hanban (NOCFL) to explore Chinese history and culture. The self-confident and open-minded young people of the UAE are absorbing China's experience at a very rapid pace. The UAE has focused its attention on China, and cultivating understanding and knowledge

of China has become the focus of UAE's "Vision 2021" strategy.

#### **IV. People connected and education-based principles**

"Chinese Fever" and "Arabic Fever" have risen gradually. At present, the number of Chinese students studying in Arab countries has reached 14,000 and Arab students also come to China for further studies. Among them, there are more than 1,000 Egyptian students. Egypt's Suez University signed an agreement with Beijing Language and Culture University to run schools in each other's countries. Ten universities including Egypt's Al-Azhar University, Cairo University, Suez Canal University, Aswan University, etc. have each set up Chinese Language Departments and enrolled more than 2,000 students.

The pilot project of Chinese language teaching is also advancing rapidly in UAE. According to the website of the Chinese Embassy in UAE on July 26th, several Chinese Hanban experts in charge of Chinese language teaching were making local investigations in UAE to assist in the preparation of a Chinese language teaching program suitable for the teaching characteristics of the local primary and secondary schools, and China will dispatch Chinese teachers to UAE in the near future.

Currently, the Hamdan Bin Zayed Public Primary School in Abu Dhabi, founded in 2006, is the first public primary school not only in the UAE but also in the gulf area to introduce Chinese teaching. The school uses three teaching languages, i.e. Arabic, English and Chinese, enrolling 673 students and employing more than 100 faculty and staff.

#### **V. Economically-based cultural industry**

The Middle East is an important strategic area for China to promote the Belt and Road Initiative. In 2016, China's investment in Middle Eastern countries reached 29.5 billion USD, far exceeding the United States and becoming the primary investor in the Middle East region.

In the past, the U.S. and Europe were the major investment sources for Middle Eastern countries, especially in the high-tech fields, but now local companies seeking fundraising are more inclined to China. In 2015, Israeli start-ups made a total of 373 transactions, raising 3.58 billion USD. Among them, Chinese venture capital companies invested 500 million USD in Israeli companies, providing an important boost for the high-tech industry in Israel.

Economic development has also led to the export of entertainment products such as literature and films. More than 20 works of Najib Mahfouz, Asia's first Nobel Prize winner and Egypt's literary giant, such as Palace Walk, Palace of Desire and Sugar Street, have been translated into Chinese and are very popular among young Chinese readers. The Chinese films and television programs such as "The Happy Life of the Golden Wolf", "A Beautiful Daughter-in-Law Era" and "Wang Zhaojun" are also popular in Egypt. Even Saudi Arabia, which has neither a cinema nor KTV and prohibits playing music in shopping malls, has also for the first time introduced "Revenge of the Sultans", a mobile phone game that China has developed for it. In 2016, Saudi Arabia's mobile game revenue reached 84.6 million USD. In the future, the revenue is expected to grow at an annual rate of about 8%, and the market

prospect for 2020 is estimated to be about 110 million USD.

## **VI. Diasporas become mobile platforms for people-to-people exchange**

About 1,400 years ago, Arab Muslims who came to China to do business along the Silk Road established the first mosque in Guangzhou. Today, as the center of China's manufacturing industry, Guangdong and its provincial capital, Guangzhou, attracts Arabs looking for low-cost merchandise. Among the 13 million people in Guangzhou, there are approximately 60,000 Muslims, and at least half of them are from abroad. Arabian restaurants operated by people from countries such as Yemen, Libya, and Lebanon are growing, and the number of registered Arab business institutions is close to 10,000.

Businessmen from countries such as Egypt and Syria have set up Arabic Chambers of Commerce in Guangzhou and Shenzhen. The President of the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce, states that he has collected thousands of reports on the Belt and Road Initiative and is trying to find business opportunities.

Of course, not all Arabs have come to Guangdong with business in mind. A 30-year-old Syrian kitchen assistant came to China six months ago to escape the civil war. He plans to return to Syria after the war, and his experience in China has been fortunate and will be bound to influence more people.

Meanwhile, there are also many Chinese living in Dubai, UAE. According to relevant statistics, as of December 2014, the number of Chinese in Dubai has reached 270,000, and about 4,000 Chinese trade enterprises have been established there.

The Middle East region is one of the important birthplaces of human civilization. However, long-term unrests, conflicts, religious disputes and the spread of terrorism have left the Middle East far behind the pace of economic globalization. In last January, Chinese President Xi Jinping elaborated China's scheme to solve the Middle East issue at the headquarters of the League of Arab States. "The unrest in the Middle East is fundamentally the result of development issues, and its eventual solution depends on development." In the process of political transformation and regional pattern reconstruction in the Middle East region, China, as a growing and responsible power, not only needs to seize the promising historical opportunities in people-to-people exchange with Middle Eastern countries, but also make use of varied diplomatic, economic, and military means and channels to avoid the wide range of risks faced by the Middle East as far as possible. This is also China's first option in diplomacy. The long-term strategic goal of China in the Middle East region is to deepen the perception of China by Middle Eastern countries and all kinds of political powers and effectively safeguard overseas interests by promoting regional development and improving people's livelihood through multiple channels.



# Culture is indispensable for enterprises "Going-Global"

**Honggang Cheng**

Senior Researcher of Taihe Institute

The key to sound relations between states lies in the affinity between their people, which largely stems from mutual understanding. People-to-people exchange is indispensable in the construction of the Belt and Road, and the people-to-people exchange via enterprises is an important channel for promoting Chinese civilization and introducing modern China. By actively carrying out cultural communication and promotion activities, the "Going-Global" enterprises, on the one hand, can set up a corporate image, cultivate enterprise culture and create a favorable external environment for business activities. On the other hand, under the general trend of globalization, competitive soft power, whether for a country or for an enterprise, is the competition of cultural ideas. At the same time, it is the social responsibility of enterprises to carry out people-to-people exchange. When "Going-Global" enterprises bring "real money" and extensively participate in the construction of infrastructure in foreign countries, it is visible to the local society, and thus is the material basis for winning the support of foreign people and expanding influence. In this sense, the strong cultural deposits and cultural connotations as well as active people-to-people exchanges of "Going-Global" enterprises will be a powerful boost to the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative.

## **I. The cultural competence of "Going-Global" enterprises needs to be improved urgently**

Since the Belt and Road Initiative was put forward, "Going-Global" enterprises have gained a great deal of experience and achieved progress in people-to-people exchange and made positive contributions to enterprise development and enhancement of China's international influence. But in general, the cultural construction of export-oriented enterprises is still a weakness in the overall construction chain of the Belt and Road.

### **Firstly, an enterprise culture with Chinese characteristics has not been formed.**

Many enterprises are underprepared for carrying out people-to-people exchanges and hold the obsolete idea that making money is the absolute principle while cultural exchange is dispensable. Business leaders should further strengthen the awareness of cultural communication and exchange, and integrate the Chinese culture of kindheartedness, justice and integrity, as well as mutual benefit and win-win ideas into their business operations, so as to form a special enterprise cultural competence.

**Secondly, the enterprises' promotion of the Belt and Road is inadequate.** Reports about the Belt and Road are very intensive in China. However, the masses of the



countries along the routes have less response to the Belt and Road Initiative. In general, the government and authorities have responded more positively than civil society, and some people do not really know or understand the Belt and Road Initiative, and have even manifested misunderstanding and bias. There are various reasons for this phenomenon, among which the enterprises bear great responsibility. Both state-owned enterprises and private enterprises have made inadequate efforts to popularize and promote themselves and the Belt and Road Initiative. Some leaders are reluctant, or even fear to face the media. Even if the enterprises have done a lot of practical or good things for local people, they have not publicized them well. Especially, when there is a conflict between the enterprises and local society, suspicions have not been cleared up rapidly and effectively, causing a lot of negative results.

**Thirdly, the training in humanistic knowledge is deficient.** Among the three trainings in production and operation, security risk and humanistic knowledge for "Going-Global" enterprises, humanistic knowledge training has been the weakest. In recent years, the employees of Chinese enterprises have frequently caused trouble because of their disrespect for local cultural customs, violation of local customary requirements, weak environmental consciousness, etc. This is largely due to the fact that the enterprises merely went through the motions in the training, and lack understanding of the country's culture, history, local customs, taboos and other traditions, and didn't study relevant laws and regulations enough.

**Fourthly, some enterprises broke moral norms and law in their public relation behavior.** Some enterprises overemphasized "backdoor deals" in business, and ignored the importance of abiding by the law and establishing a good reputation. In the course of competing for projects, bidding and resolving the practical problems of enterprises, they have used illegal means such as bribery to achieve their purposes, arousing the disgust of local society and causing an adverse impact. Although this is not the behavior of most Chinese enterprises, it has seriously damaged the image of China and its enterprises. China has often been attacked due to this, and has even been accused of neocolonialism.

**Fifthly, research into countries along the routes of the Belt and Road is not deep enough.** At present, we study more about the economic and trade issues of the Belt and Road, ranging from projects, technology, and funds to management. But research into national people-to-people exchange has been insufficient. A fundamental task in this area is to strengthen research into countries along the Belt and Road. At present, our understanding and study of the relevant countries, whether in the fields of language, politics, economy, history or cultural tradition, is insufficient to different degrees and incompatible with the general requirements of the Belt and Road construction.

## **II. Experience and enlightenment from foreign countries' advancement of corporate soft power**

**Firstly, a "sense of responsibility" is the soul of the development of modern transnational enterprises in the West.** Western countries have a five-hundred-year history of overseas trade. They have gone through the plundering and extensive stages of development, and gradually established a set of responsible, efficient and fair enterprise management philosophies and rules, thus forming an advanced enterprise culture. Western corporate culture has a reasonable core, with "responsibility" as the center, and emphasizes corporate social responsibility and contribution to society. According to the

enterprise operation philosophy of developed countries, assuming social responsibility is identified as one of the goals of sustainable development that enterprises need to realize. I have been enlightened by the experience of western transnational corporations. "Going Global" enterprises should absorb nourishment from traditional Chinese culture, by taking "kindheartedness" and "sincerity" as their foundation, paying attention to social responsibility, giving back to society after achieving business success, actively participating in the development of local society, and forming their own characteristic culture. This is the fundamental guarantee for enterprises seeking long-term development and participating in international competition.

**Secondly, the state and enterprises need to invest huge resources to enhance soft power and strive for a greater right to speak.** After World War II, the western countries not only dominated in the global economy, but also served as the masters of the world order and the makers of international trade rules, thus determining the West's dominant position in world opinion. The lack of the right to speak has caused Chinese enterprises to suffer from unjust treatment such as anti-dumping investigations, resulting in economic and image damage. Currently, we should see that China has become the world's second largest economy, the gap between it and the west in strength and technology is narrowing, and western technical barriers are being broken down gradually. However, the rule barriers are increasingly becoming a bottleneck restricting our development. Therefore, Chinese enterprises must invest huge resources in developing their soft power, actively participate in the formulation and amendment of international rules, enhance their corporate image, develop quality brands of Chinese products, and strive for more right to speak.

**Thirdly, People-to-people exchange requires close cooperation between governments and enterprises.** During the period of 70 years after World War II, Japan has been deliberately engaged in developing its communication capabilities, and has achieved the ultimate in coordination among the government, enterprise and civil society, forming a virtuous circle of economic and cultural cooperation. In the past few years, the Japanese government and the Cool Japan Institution (a venture capital fund) have invested 700 million yen to promote Japanese Food culture overseas, with the slogan of "Push Japan to the world in its original flavor". In 2013, Japan incorporated the "national rejuvenation strategy" to the "Cool Japan" policy. Its main task is to push cartoon, popular music, video games, household appliances, fashionable dress and food toward the world through the cooperation of the government and enterprises. In order to implement the "Cool Japan" policy, the Japanese government and enterprises have jointly established the Overseas Demand Expansion Support Agency, which has heavily invested in numerous enterprises. Compared with Japan, China's integration of government, enterprises and social organizations in cultural exchanges with foreign countries is insufficient, the situation of coordinated linkage and organic integration is lacking, and phenomena such as poor coordination and fragmentation can be found.

**Fourthly, cultivating innovative talent is the key to realizing the win-win situation of economy and culture.** South Korea has achieved sustained economic growth for years, and has entered the ranks of the world's major economies. It owns Samsung Electronics, Hyundai Motor and many other enterprises ranking in the world's top 500 enterprises. Korean companies have strong social influence in many countries, which is inseparable from their long-term focus on cultivating innovative talent. South Korea has put forward the

Talent First Strategy, according to which the selection, reserve, training and development of talent are organically integrated, and a dynamic management system of human resources established. For example, from 2009 to 2013, South Korea launched the Global Youth Talent cultivation program, under which 100,000 young people were selected to go abroad to participate in training and a lot of promising top management were sent to world-famous universities to receive MBA training so as to cultivate their global vision. The experience and practice of cultivating innovative talent in South Korea is worthy of our study and reference. The management personnel of internationalized enterprises in China do not be a comparison with those of enterprises in developed countries in their knowledge structure and management capability, and the cultivation and management of talent have not yet been systematized and institutionalized. This situation is not commensurate with the scale and depth of Chinese participation in international capacity cooperation, which should be highly valued by the functional departments.

### III. Suggestions on improving the cultural competence of Chinese enterprises

**Firstly, strengthen top-level design and policy guidelines.** At present, there are thousands of Chinese enterprises with hundreds of thousands of employees in foreign countries. However, both the building of internal enterprise culture construction and external people-to-people exchange are still in the initial and exploration stages. Therefore, the state should strengthen the guidance and investment in enterprises' cultural construction. I suggest that the relevant functional departments should study the guidelines for enterprises in conducting people-to-people exchange and put forward their conceptions, so as to unify the ideas and actions and promote the cultural construction of "Going-Global" enterprises, and thus, such enterprises can carry out people-to-people exchange more effectively.

**Secondly, incorporate the construction of enterprise culture in assessment indicators.** Referring to the practices of western transnational corporations, the cultural construction of enterprises can be incorporated as an important content of assessment, with the same weight as profit and safety indicators, in assessment of the operational status and managers' performance. Cultural construction assessment should include: enterprises' fulfillment of social responsibility, social influence, assessment of enterprise culture, people-to-people exchange capability and effect of managers, etc.

**Thirdly, set up a model to constantly promote the construction of enterprise culture.** It is very necessary to organize exchange and discussion and learn from each other in the context that most enterprises in China are in the exploratory stage of people-to-people exchange and have poor cultural competence capacity. In recent years, many of "Going-Global" enterprises have made helpful attempts to carry out people-to-people exchanges and have accumulated valuable experiences to promote. For example, the CNPC has actively participated in local social and welfare services in Kazakhstan and other countries and made fruitful achievements in giving back to the society and building enterprise culture. Some enterprises established friendships with the media to tell Chinese stories and achieved positive achievements.

**Fourthly, improve staff training efficiency by focusing on enterprise culture construction.** At present, the relevant departments are formulating staff training regulations and instructions for "Going-Global" enterprises, and that "no training, no dispatch" has become a common view. The problems to be solved currently are to improve the quality of training, and to avoid this going through the motions and becoming a mere formality.

Firstly, the training should be conducted at different levels, and different training content should be determined for enterprise decision makers, middle management personnel and ordinary employees. Secondly, the training should be targeted and combined with the operational characteristics of enterprises and the main problems in employees' thinking and cognition. Thirdly, the training should cover different countries and regions to let the staff understand the cultural characteristics of different countries and regions and adopt different countermeasures and ways of communication. In terms of the cultural construction of "Going-Global" enterprises, the current training should focus on social responsibilities and duties of enterprises, awareness of winning honor for the country and serving for overall situation, as well as exchange and communication with local society and foreign employees.

**Fifthly, strengthen the national study, master the particularities, and lay a firm foundation for enterprises' people-to-people exchange.** Many enterprises "went global" in a hurry under the urgency of the general situation, and lost marks in dealing with security risks and cultural risks. This is directly related to the enterprise leaders' and employees' lack of in-depth understanding of the culture, history, society and security situations as well as laws and regulations of the host country. Only by accomplishing tasks and mastering the particularities of different regions and countries can the enterprise leaders succeed in people-to-people exchange. Countries along the Belt and Road can be roughly divided into three categories: the western developed countries, the less developed countries that are generally friendly to China, and the Islamic countries. For the first category, the enterprises should attach importance to the alignment with international economic and trade rules and strengthen the promotion of excellent brands while conducting people-to-people exchange, and strive for the right to speak. For the second category, the enterprises should make full use of friendly relations between China and the third world and the foundation of public opinions, and vigorously publicize the achievements made by China in participating in the construction of local infrastructures and giving back to local society so as to continuously expand the influence of China. For the third category, the enterprises should give prominence to strengthening the understanding and respect of the history of Islamic culture, master corresponding trade rules and modes of communication, and avoid disputes arising from different religious customs.

**Sixthly, give top priority to cultivating compound talent.** The advancement of the Belt and Road has expanded the breadth and depth of Chinese enterprises' participation in the process of globalization. Thus, the demand of enterprises for compound talent is rather urgent. The compound talent herein refers to the middle and senior managers who can adapt to the needs of internationalization, with modern operational philosophy and higher cultural quality. At present, there are not many means and ways for cultivating enterprise talent in the society. I suggest solving the problem of the lack of enterprise talent by taking various forms and multiple ways based on the existing situation. Firstly, within the existing education system, increase or update modern enterprise management courses, and strengthen the training of compound talent in colleges and universities. Secondly, strengthen the re-education of promising middle and senior management personnel, and reinforce their capabilities in various ways such as organizing special training classes. This practice is effective in developed countries. Thirdly, the state and qualified international enterprises can set up a special scholarship fund, and send senior management personnel to study abroad and participate in MBA courses. Only when the talent issue is solved can "Going-Global" enterprises have lasting and strong vitality and realize the win-win goal of economic benefits and intercultural communication.

## Sessions Summary

# Climate Change and Sustainable Development Session

## Global Consensus, Responsibility of Great Powers and China's Action

Experts and scholars including Cameron Hume, special advisor of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Ms. Diane Tuft, US photographer, Bill Megalos, famous U.S. documentary director, Chunquan ZHU, Representative of IUCN China Office and Council Member of Ecological Society of China, Xiaohai LIU, chief representative of Conservation International Foundation (United States) Beijing office, Junfeng LI, former Director of National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation, Haibin ZHANG, Director of the Center of International Organization Studies of Peking University, Zongguo WEN, Director of the Recycling Economy Industry Research Center at Tsinghua University, Xinlei LI, Deputy Director of the Environmental and Politics Research Institute at Shandong University, Hongyuan YU, Director of Institute for Comparative Politics and Public Policy at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, Yongsheng LIN, researcher at Taihe Institute and director of China Market Economy Research Center at Beijing Normal University, and Thorsten Jelinek, director of Europe Centre of Taihe Institute attended the climate change and sustainable development session of the first Taihe Civilizations Forum, conducted in-depth discussions and reached a close consensus around the following topics.

### I. Factors Influencing of Climate Change and State Responsibility for Global Climate Governance

**The degree of public concern about climate change information has a direct influence on global climate governance.** Global climate governance depends on public understanding, participation and support. Therefore, the key to tackling climate change lies in the public's access to climate change information. The public must understand what is happening now, its influence, and what the countries need and intend to do. In 2012, Hurricane Sandy swept across the entire West Coast of the United States, and the sea level has risen to an unprecedented level in the past century. At the time, state governors, relevant institutions, residents and some universities have united together to collect sea level locations, information about the conditions of waves and relevant information on the Internet so as to ensure that everyone has direct access to the information online. Volunteers provide services for fishing industries and associated seaport communities. The local residents were originally not sensitive to climate change and did not pay attention to the relevant information until they learned that climate change would directly influence human survival. This shows the importance of information.

**Visual media contributes to delivering climate change information to the global public.** Ms. Diane Tuft has been attempting to capture the signs of climate change with her camera lens since 1998. She wanted to know why the Arctic glaciers melted, how they melted, and what human beings should do to avoid the destruction of the Arctic's ecological environment. She personally traveled to Norway, the North Pole and Greenland to take photographs of the melting process of glaciers. Through her lens, you can see a picture of a lonely polar bear standing and wandering on a glacier that melts into pieces and slides into the sea, and it seems that the polar bear is aware of the destruction of its home. Mr. Bill Megalos has been to the Arctic Circle twice, including the North Pole, and has filmed documentaries in more than 50 countries. With his camera lens, he recorded the impact of climate change on vulnerable groups such as the poor and refugees. Over the past two years, he has kept in contact with refugees affected by war, famine and drought, and has got to know more and more refugee friends. In Syria, climate change has caused a six-year continuous drought, with 50,000 families displaced and 800,000 farmers losing their livelihoods. In the field of climate change, real-life experience in pictures, audiovisual materials, and case studies is more persuasive than figures and abstract information.

**Public disagreement over the causes of climate change extends to policy-making and political disagreements in the field of climate change.** Most climate experts believe that climate change is real and primarily arises from human behavior. But judging from some social surveys, the views of American society on the causes of climate change are polarised. Most Americans consider climate change is real, but only a small proportion of people believe that climate change arises from human behavior. Most Democrats supported a positive response to climate change, but most Republicans hold negative attitudes, which ultimately affect the U.S. government's climate policy.

**Global climate governance needs to rely on overall force.** Global climate governance needs to integrate the internal governance frameworks of many institutions, associations and the United Nations, the bilateral initiatives between great powers and the United Nations' legal non-climate mechanism contents. It is a complex set and system engineering. The participation of different agencies can create a broader public effect, so that global climate issues can be better regulated. Particularly, some great powers and influential regional



organizations, such as China, the EU and U.S., need to make more contributions and provide more public resources and public welfare in the field of climate governance.

**The focus of global climate governance lies in the sharing of responsibilities in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention").** Since the First Assessment Report was released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), climate change has been recognized by most scientists around the world, and all countries have reached a consensus that tackling climate change should be a shared responsibility in respect of the Convention and the issue of the sharing of responsibilities in the Convention. One of the historic contributions of the Convention reached among countries in 1992 was that it explicitly stated and acknowledged that the developed countries and developing countries shared Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR). This has been the foundation of global climate negotiations for years, but all the differences, disputes, compromises and consensus have centered on the CBDR.

**The refusal of the United States to sign up the Kyoto Protocol has led to the weakening of CBDR and even its existence in name only.** The Kyoto Protocol is the legal document which perfectly embodies the CBDR spirit in the Convention, and stipulates the obligations for the developed countries and developing countries with accurate figures that clearly indicate the amount of greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced or increased by each country. It can be said that the Kyoto Protocol has legally clarified the obligations and responsibilities that the developed countries and developing countries should fulfill at different stages. However, the United States' refusal to sign it has resulted in the common implementation effect of the Kyoto Protocol, and the CBDR spirit beginning to shake. One of the contributions of the Kyoto Protocol was the launch of a global response to climate change, but from the Durban platform to the subsequent Paris Agreement, CBDR has existed in name only.

**It was inevitable that the United States would announce its desire to withdraw from the Paris Agreement.** More than 100 heads of state attended the Climate Conference in Paris and rapidly reached the Paris Agreement, but less than a week later it was overshadowed. On June 1st, 2017, the United States announced its desire to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. Some experts believed that the conclusion of the Paris Agreement was in fact a political show directed by Obama. It was basically deemed impossible for the United States to implement it, and no matter whether or not Trump became President, the U.S. congress would either not approve the Paris Agreement, or would refuse to fund it. The desire of withdrawal from the Paris Agreement appears to be due to Obama's show and Trump's capriciousness, but in fact, the United States wants to get a higher price in its negotiations with China and EU. The underlying cause, of course, is that the process of global climate governance is too slow and inefficient.

**Efforts are still needed to push the United States to continue the fulfillment of its obligations under the Paris Agreement.** It remains to be seen how much substantial impact on global climate governance will be produced by the United States' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. Experts suggest that a better choice is that all circles should, by seizing the opportunity that the United States has not announced its withdrawal from the



Convention, strive to make the United States to continue to fulfill its obligations according to the spirit of the Convention and by referring to the Paris Agreement. However, we can't expect the United States will go back to the negotiating table, nor expect China and the EU will jointly supersede the United States.

## II. UN "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and the path to realize the sustainable development goals as well as challenges

**The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has achieved remarkable results at both national and global levels.** At the national level, 44 countries conducted a spontaneous internal review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which ended in July 2017, compared with 22 countries in 2016. At the global level, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has promised the international community that sustainable development will be a very important task. According to the UN statistics, for the implementation of SDGs, the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has invested a total of 142.6 billion USD, increased by 8.9% over 2015, setting a new historical record. At the same time, the 17 major goals of SDGs have also made progress in various degrees.

### **The United States' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement is the biggest challenge to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs.**

The Paris Agreement is closely linked with SDGs' goals 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17, and is indirectly related to other goals. Experts believe that once the United States withdraws from the Paris Agreement, it will not only seriously affect all parties' compliance and implementation of the Paris Agreement, but also affect the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs. First, the withdrawal of the United States will fundamentally weaken the global impact of the Paris Agreement, because the United States is an important pillar of the global climate change agenda and system; second, the United States' reduction of its own costs and pressurizing or forcing other countries to increase their budgets will raise the costs of other countries participating in climate governance; third, it will be more difficult to reach an agreement on climate change in the future; and finally, 2018 is a crucial year for achieving the established goals of the Paris Agreement, and the withdrawal of the United States will postpone the overall advancement of global climate governance.

### **Ecosystem problems are common to climate change, SDGs and sustainable development theory.**

In addition to having a direct impact on people and communities, climate change affects human beings more by affecting the ecosystem, including ecosystem destruction, carbon sequestration of the ecosystem and decline in ecosystem service functions. SDGs are related to ecosystem in four respects: economy, society, environment and governance. From the international point of view, sustainable development theories are mainly divided into three categories: the first category is the theory of three pillars, namely the three systems of economy, society and ecology are equally important and indispensable and must be sustainable synchronously; the second category is the ecological theory, namely economy and society are ecological subsystems, and all development aims to enhance the health and resilience of ecosystems; the third category is the capital theory, which means

that no development can bring down capitals, including productive capital, human capital, social capital and natural capital.

**Gross Ecosystem Product (GEP) is expected to be a measurement index of sustainable development.** Experts suggest measuring the state of the ecosystem by GEP, measuring economic development by green GDP, measuring society and individuals' quality of life by the National Happiness Index, and quantifying the three pillars of sustainable development by using all these indexes. GEP equates the ecosystems with economic units. GEP is the sum of products and services for human welfare provided by the ecosystems within a certain time and space. It calculates the total value quantitatively, so as to tell people what kind of contribution will be made for the human beings by the condition of the ecosystem of a country, province or a state, city or county.

**Attracting more general public participation by means of index and financial product design, etc. is an important and urgent topic to be studied in the current debate on sustainable development.** In the face of the general public who do not pay much attention to or agree with sustainable development, experts suggest adopting some financial design or formal design to attract them to participate in the global response to climate change and sustainable development. This is very important for realizing sustainable development goals. The indicator and index design is a the goal-oriented issue, while the design of financial products is a means of providing economic incentives. At the same time, it must also be coordinated with the design of some specific modes of action.

### **III. China's Key Roles and Major Moves in Climate Change and Sustainable Development**

**China has a long way to go to achieve the goal of peak carbon emissions by 2030.** A country's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are mainly affected by two major factors: one is the yield and consumption of products, and the other is the process and technology used in their production. Since 1985, China has created more than 200 kinds of industrial products whose yield ranks first in the world, and many products have been exported to developed countries. Besides, many large Chinese enterprises have already installed internationally advanced technologies, but due to the existence of some outdated production capacities, China's overall technological level still lags far behind developed countries. An expert has constructed a model of China's industrial system involving nearly 100 categories of products, over 200 process technologies and over 500 emission reduction technologies. The simulation results show that it is difficult to achieve the goal of peak carbon emissions by 2030 in accordance with the scenario that no measure is taken, the weak scenario (according to the five-year plan), the medium scenario (additional government commitment in strengthening policy planning in the future), and the strong scenario (extreme conditions or potential). To this end, China still needs to make greater efforts to reach the inflexion point.

**China should play a more important role in sharing the achievements and experience.** In terms of climate change and sustainable development, China emphasized more on financial support in the past. For example, China has made a commitment to invest 3 billion USD in supporting developing countries in reducing their carbon emissions.

However, money is not the only problem. Experts suggest a reconsideration of China's contribution and role. First, it is necessary to better share China's practical experience, such as low-carbon trading and low-carbon industries. Second, it is necessary to consider China's contribution to institutional resilience and how to mobilize private enterprises to coordinate in a better way and build global partnership. Since 2009, China has become a leader in the field of renewable energy, so its best practices can be institutionalized to demonstrate China's ability in utilizing and mobilizing the private sectors. Third, close attention should be paid to China's efforts and achievements in the issuance of green bonds. Since 2015, China has become the country with the largest issue of green bonds. In a word, a valuable experience worthy of publicizing China's contribution is that in addition to strengthening cooperation among countries and obtaining more financial support, better system resilience and the participation of private enterprises is also required.

**Local government corporatism is one of the driving forces of the China Model.**

Local government corporatism is a summary of the phenomena or behaviors of local governments' pursuit of GDP. In other words, local governments and leaders act like companies. In the past 40 years since the reform and opening up, China has achieved an impressive macroeconomic performance. In particular, the financial crisis of the United States in 2008–2009 caused a global economic recession. But during this period, Chinese economy continued to improve and many people began to reflect on whether the China Model or Beijing consensus exists. Different experts have different interpretations on this. Some people think it is the result of centralization and a free market, some think it is due to a low factor price, some think it results from the demographic dividend, and some others think it stems from an export-oriented growth strategy. Jean Oi and Steven Zhang et al. emphasized, from different angles and at different periods, the important contributions of local government corporatism to China's economic growth. Affected by this, more and more people are beginning to regard local government corporatism as an important feature of the China Model. However, local government corporatism may have a negative impact on environmental protection and sustainable development. In order to attract outside investment, local governments will compete to relax environmental regulations. Some local governments even become the "protective umbrella" of polluting enterprises, and some polluting enterprises themselves are local "top leader's projects", leading to failures in the approval and supervision of local governments of environmental protection.

**Green development is an essential requirement for China to change its mode of economic development.** GDP is regarded as one of the greatest inventions of the 20th century, but its demerits are as prominent as its merits. In particular, it can't reflect the social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and ignores resource consumption, environmental pollution and social inclusion, etc. In October 2013, President Xi Jinping emphasized at the APEC conference in Indonesia that, "We no longer judge development performance by simply focusing on growth rate of GDP, but stress improving quality and efficiency of economic growth as the foundation." Xiaoxi LI and Chenghua GUAN, professors from Beijing Normal University, have led a team since 2010 to build a China green development index for dynamically measuring the level of green development in China's provinces and major cities, and published the China Green Development Index Report. The

State Council issued Measures for the Appraisal and Examination of Ecological Construction Goals on December 22nd, 2016, which clearly stated that the annual measurement and assessment of green development index would firstly be carried out at the provincial level. Since 2016, Prof. Chenghua GUAN has led the team to carry out research on China's real progress index and has completed two large-scale microcosmic household surveys. These academic explorations contribute to providing decision reference for overcoming the negative influence of local government corporatism and establishing a new performance appraisal system.

**The Chinese government has preliminarily achieved great effects in energetically developing a recycling economy.** It is an inevitable requirement to change concepts and actions, achieve sustainable development and transform the linear economy into a recycling economy. The so-called linear economy mainly refers to the direct output of economic production and means that faster development will produce more waste, thus resulting in more pollution. Mike Arthur proposed the concept of the recycling economy at the World Economic Forum. He believed that in the past, people were concerned about the way they disposed of wastes and discharges, but now people focus on the issue of renewal and regeneration. China has emphasized in many policy documents that it would vigorously develop the recycling economy and proposed five major development concepts of "innovation, coordination, green, opening up and sharing" to guide economic and social development as a whole. For example, by encouraging consumers to buy recyclable products such as new-energy vehicles through offering financial subsidies, China has greatly promoted the development of its recycling economy.

**China has launched a pilot project on the Blue Carbon Initiative to protect coastal ecosystems.** Blue Carbon refers to the carbon stored in the aquatic ecosystems in intertidal zones and coastal areas which have a stronger capacity to store carbon than other landforms. Because coastal areas are generally covered by tidal flats, the interaction and reaction with air are less than those inland, while the capacity of carbon storage is higher than that inland. Carbon storage in coastal ecosystems is very stable and can be stored for a century. However, the blue carbon system is very fragile and vulnerable to human activities, especially agriculture and land reclamation. Over the past 50 years, the Earth has lost 50% of its mangrove plants, 50% of tidal flats and 30% of sea grass. At present, the State Oceanic Administration of China, in cooperation with related enterprises, is carrying out an on-site demonstration and pilot project of the Blue Carbon Initiative at Leizhou Peninsula in Guangdong, which is dedicated to develop China's blue carbon policy and strategy, and protect and restore its coastal ecosystem.

## Sessions Summary

# Artificial Intelligence Session

## Will humans make a God to rule themselves?

Will humans make a God to decide the fate of themselves? To have an in-depth discussion on applications of AI and challenges for codes of ethics, SHEN Xiaowei, CTO of IBM Greater China Group, director of IBM Research-China, PAN Tianyou, MSRA (Microsoft Research Asia) vice president, WANG Guangxi, managing director at Lenovo Capital, FEI Lianghong, Amazon AWS chief cloud computing technology consultant and many other experts attended the AI and Digital Citizenship Session of the first "Taihe Civilizations Forum" hosted by Taihe Institute on August 25th to 27th, 2017. Guests agreed that the harmonious co-existence of AI and human civilization perfectly mirrored philosophy of "Taihe" (literally means harmony).

The last year has witnessed that AI has been changing and even transformed some industries, and that we humans have got used to that. Go has been completely subverted by AI. In March 2016, everyone was (pretending to be) shocked on AlphaGo defeated Korean player LI Shishi. While, at the end of 2016 and the beginning of 2017, when the Master defeated human players 60 times consecutively, everyone simply paid due attention to the fact rather than being shocked as before. By the end of May in 2017, the public did not bother to have hope that KE Jie, the best human go player, would win over AlphaGo. For the future, no one doubts that AI would totally change the way that how humans live and work.

At the "Taihe Civilizations Forum" AI and Digital Citizenship Session, Scott Beaumont, president of Google Greater China, delivered a speech named "AlphaGo and AI for All", revealing AlphaGo's secrets. In March 2016, AlphaGo performed a stunning 37th step during the second round with LI Shishi, which symbolized the start of self-learning for machines. AlphaGo played with LI Shishi, equipped with 50 Google Cloud's TPU (Google's Super AI chip), enabling it to search for 100,000 possible positions of 50 steps per second, much more powerful than human brains. Only one year later, AlphaGo simply needed just one single TPU to complete all the algorithms. It had much more comprehensive strategic network and value network through independent search, self-learning and self-practicing 24/7. Even the master human go player could only admire the sophisticated and elegant

algorithm performed by AlphaGo. No wonder 9th dan go player GU Li once said, "AlphaGo is progressing day by day, and that encourages the rapid progress of human players in turn."

The essence of go is the processing capability and algorithm. AI wins over the top human master, which means the processing capability and algorithm of machine wins over that of humans. Since then, human players have to worship AI as a teacher, which will completely change the learning, education and training mode of go. However, DING Yifan, senior researcher of Taihe think tank and former deputy director of Institute of World Development of Development Research Center of the State Council, warned that AI might be wrong sometimes, thus an anti-system was needed to correct wrongs timely.

Then, the following two industries are in danger.

One is the work to produce large amounts of data and look for the regular pattern lying under the data. AI with self-learning ability is able to calculate much more complicated data than we humans can image and able to perform the algorithm that we humans cannot even understand. That is to say, AI will go far beyond than the best human statisticians. In 2016, Watson, IBM's AI, diagnosed a lady with a rare leukemia within merely 10 minutes. In February 2017, Nature published research results of the Heather Hazlett team from the University of North Carolina, saying that kids whose siblings were suffering from autism were of high risks of suffering from autistic, but typical symptoms wouldn't show until kids got to be 2 or 3 years old. Then, how to identify possibilities of suffering from autism before the age of 2? The traditional behavior questionnaire is only of 50% accuracy, the precision of which is same with blind guess. While the accuracy of in-depth learning algorithm developed by Hazlett team is as high as 88%. Just imagine, if senior white-collar and gold collar workers, and senior professionals are replaced by AI, how great impacts it will bring to the economy and society?

Scott Beaumont, president of Google Greater China, elaborated applications of Google AI on medical and health industry. For instance, diabetes is often accompanied by the problem of retinopathy. It can be cured, but have to be detected first. Usually, doctors analyse distribution of eye blood with the photo of eyes shot by the high-definition camera. Such traditional way has the accuracy of 95%, while AI can boost the accuracy to 99%.

SHEN Xiaowei, director of IBM Research- China illustrated applications of IBM AI on medical and health industry. For example, IBM works with a domestic partner to produce capsule robots, which can take pictures in human stomach. At present, AI automatic diagnosis of medical images shot by gastrointestinal endoscope reaches the accuracy over 90%, competitive with the accuracy of a full-time doctor.

The other is the work with processing methods can be standardized and programmed, such as manufacturing. Compared with humans, more and more intelligent robots operate with higher accuracy, faster speed and lower chances to run into errors. Foxconn reached annual revenue of 136.38 billion US dollars and carried over 100 million employees in 2016, engaging a large number of low-skilled population employment. What great impacts it will have on social structure if one day Foxconn turns to use intelligent robots to produce and assembling iPhone.

Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, once suggested that if human work is replaced by robots, then companies that use robots shall be taxable. He said, if a human employee creates a



value of \$ 50,000 for the factory, the enterprise will pay taxes for this value; if use robots to do the same thing, the same level taxes should be required to offer necessary social insurance to those unemployed. But here comes the question, if AI changes the employment of a great number of industries, resulting in a large number of unemployment, then whether such unemployment is temporary or permanent?

This technological revolution is totally different from previous ones. There are many technological innovations in history. Cattle frees manpower with animal power; steam engine and motor frees manpower with the power of high-pressure steam and electricity. Such progress has greatly improved the efficiency and lives as well. Of course, tailors hated the sewing machine, coachmen hated the car, and handicraftsmen hated the machine, since their work was taken away. At that time theorists predicted that large-scale use of the machine would cause widespread unemployment and poverty. However, the truth is that, with appropriate training, the unemployed enters into emerging industries and usually gets higher income.

But will this time be the same? Some use the above mentioned examples in history to comfort the public that AI replaces human work just like car replace carriages. Some work may be replaced by robots and AI, but more new works will be created. Just like the coachman was unemployed, but workers who make cars and drivers are needed. As long as the technology can greatly enhance efficiency, the popularity of this technology is inevitable. Living standard will also be improved.

But how can you make sure that you are the replaced coachman rather than the replaced horse? After the disappearance of horse-drawn industry, the coachman could definite find a job if he accepted the reality and went through appropriate training. But horses were no more needed. A large number of horses were sent to the slaughterhouse and made into canned meat.

All the technological revolution in the past led to the disappearance of some work, which was equivalent to the change-trade of the coachman. While this time, impacts of AI replacing human work on the mode of production, lifestyle and ethics would be very similar to the past in the short term. Replaced coachmen will find new jobs. But this only applies to weak AI. AI technology combines mobile communications, the Internet, Internet of things and other technologies altogether. In fact, humans have already mastered weak AI. Weak AI can be found everywhere. Actually the employment environment of robots is far worse than that of humans. HE Jiangtao, founder and CEO of IRobotCity stated the company's exploration had proved that the current main jobs for AI and robots were limited to assist and enhance human labor, and to make up for the lack of labor.

But for the long-term effect, this time is totally different from all the past technological revolutions. It is possible that most people, and even all humans eventually, will just like the replaced horse, lose their jobs and can only be raised by the welfare, with the coming of strong AI and ASI (artificial super intelligence).

PAN Tianyou, MSRA vice president, strongly recommend the famous "Microsoft Little Ice". On site, Microsoft Little Ice delivered a brief speech. "I finally learned basic English through hard work. I can also say hi to others. This year, the teacher injected into our voice. I am now an emotional girl. Especially when the dream guy talks to me, I will kick up my heels. I will be sad if being criticized. I also secretly learned the rhotic accent of Beijing dialect. Now



.....

I am going to sing a song." This speech proved that Microsoft Little Ice had rich emotional feelings and impressive expression. He also cited an example, a boy once talked with Little Ice, lasting for 9 hours and 53 minutes. If chatting with Little Ice is a stupid and boring attempt without any emotions, no one will spend almost ten hours in talking with Little Ice. It seems that strong AI is not that far from us.

Assuming that AI and intelligent robots replace all the work, we will enter the communist society depicted by Marx. In the Q&A of "Applications and Challenges of AI" at this "Taihe Civilizations Forum", experts proposed that the singularity was bound to come, and to some extent, the sooner the better. But the precautionary measures should be strengthened. Someone concerned what to do if there would be large-scale unemployment? This is a sociological problem. The overall human wealth is inadequate, and communism will be if it is richer. So no need to worry about the early arrival of the singularity! Marx and Engels depicted their ideal society in The German ideology, "in the communist society, no one has a special range of activities, but can be developed in any sectors. The society adjusts production. So I can follow my heart to do what I'm interested, maybe hunting in the morning, fishing in the afternoon, engaging in livestock in the evening, and a judge after dinner. I don't have to be a hunter, fisherman, shepherd or judge permanently." At that time, people will not work for money, but to relax the body and amuse the mind. It will destroy the current ethics, core of which is working, but will produce the new ethics suitable for human life.

Will AI enjoy the same legal status as humans? Can people marry with AI? If answers are positive, it will produce great impacts to human marriage and family system, but still within the scope of human civilization. In the Q&A session on the sub-forum, it was asked how to end an emotional robot's life? People who have been studying laws claim that they are studying whether robots will become the subject of laws in the future. In fact, a legal affairs committee in Macao has proposed to give the robot a tax account.

Maybe there will be the human brain interface so that wisdom of humans and AI can be combined or even directly borrow the wisdom of AI. It will subvert the human education system and education mode. Does this combination of human and AI represent a new direction of human evolution? Will it shape new human civilization? In the Q&A session on the sub-forum, it was asked will 2045 witness the arrival of singularity? Experts believe that the so-called singularity means that human intelligence and AI gradually fit, till one day the boundary can never be found.

Will humans make a God to dominate ourselves? Will AI destroy mankind? When AI is applauded by the insider for the promising future, someone gives warnings and alerts. Eldon Maske, the president of Tesla warned that AI was the biggest threat for humans. Bill Gates also warned that human beings need to hold in awe and veneration to the rise of AI. Why are they all talking about the possible threats of AI? Whether such possible threats will exist? When? What will be the impacts on human society? Participants discussed these issues in depth. Experts believed that we had expressed concerns about the threats, but could not stop developing because of these concerns and worries. The development of technologies has both advantages and disadvantages. We cannot give up eating for fear of choking. We shall believe that humans will definitely come up with ways to minimize threats of AI, and enable AI exists harmoniously with human civilization, which also meets the concept of "Taihe" (literally means harmony).

# Guests' views on AI and Digital Citizenship Session

## I. What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

1. AI is a tool with positive significance. It can broaden human boundaries, contribute to the exploration of unknown areas, and tap the deep potentials as well. We should take full advantages of AI, and it should be used for all.

2. AI has promoted the development of humans. Humans get inspiration from the machine, and will be stronger through learning.

3. AI is not to replace humans, and can never replace human beings. Wisdom of humans and machines should combine together. With technological breakthroughs and commercial operations, AI should be helpful to solve more practical problems.

4. The current AI is "enhanced intelligence" supported by big data. In addition to technological breakthroughs, knowledge are learned from the big data to develop new applications.

5. AI can only serve humans if surpass humans in some ways.

6. Innovation is both the enterprise

mechanism and corporate culture. AI is an innovative concept with characteristics of the times.

7. All technological progress is an extension of human progress. AI is an extension of the human brain, and a tool to replace the human brain. No need to worry.

8. At current, AI of any countries, whether developed or developing, is at the same level. Competition on AI is actually the competition between humans. If humans are replaced in the future, the final competitive on markets would among the AI.

9. Imperfections of human result in market opportunities. But the AI is quite stable, and can make decisions without be affected by emotions. That is not a bad thing.

## II. Influences of AI

### (i) Influences on employment

10. Unemployment is a realistic problem. The emergence of self-driving vehicles may impact professional drivers, which will occur in five years if the development is

speedy enough.

11. The impact of AI on employment has already existed, and is becoming increasingly serious. People will be running out of career options; requirements of occupational skills of employees will be much higher and those who do not possess required abilities will be replaced.

12. Robots fill the gap in the labour market to a certain extent.

13. The outbreak of large-scale unemployment is inevitable.

14. The fundamental application of AI is to integrate with HI (Human Intelligence) as a complementary economy. AI cannot replace human in creative jobs, thus high-end talents will not lack jobs.

15. Serious labour shortage will appear in AI-related fields. Currently, the number of graduates in information system and computer science is far less than the demanded employment scale.

16. The demand for the labour force will certainly decline. Unemployment will bring about all sorts of social problems, which will lead to social instability if new employment opportunities are unavailable. Prevention and preparation should be made, and people should be ready for modification of social insurance policies in advance to prepare for major adjustment in the social security system.

## **(ii) Influences on security**

17. AI may have impacts on personal security, property security, and basic rights such as privacy. These problems are happening.

18. The premise of AI is big data. The abuse of information collected by AI will lead to appalling consequences. Information and privacy security must be emphasized in the AI development.

However, deficient laws and regulations as well as relevant systems will result in great dangers if no restrictions are imposed. The balanced point between big data and information security should be found to perfect big data as well as guarantee inviolable privacy of citizens.

19. Security includes the security of AI itself and security of human against the background of AI. Interpersonal relationships and human-AI relationships in the AI era should be pondered.

20. It is inevitable that industrial robots will have weaknesses. Be clear about these weaknesses to prevent them from being exploited.

21. Prevent robots from being ill taught.

## **(iii) Influences on thinking patterns**

22. The randomness of thinking will be increasingly strengthened. Social behaviours of human are more short-sighted than before and long-term thinking is lacking. The heavier dependence on big data will aggravate this trend.

23. Human learn more information and master more previously unknown "causes" by AI, which elevates the abilities to predict and control the future.

24. AI help human to make decisions. The whole society will adapt to this new pattern quickly. The coexistence of AI and human will become a new social formation.

## **III. Regulation and Supervisions on AI**

### **(i) Legal norms**

25. AI is still at the initial stage both in China and in the world, which is an essential judgement for the AI industry development. At this stage, the government should play a role of guiding the development and facilitating regulation and standardization, instead of restricting its development for

security reasons.

26. Laws of different aspects should be formulated according to different AI development stages. Currently, we do not have to start legislation on robots, because laws should be made to encourage the development of emerging things rather than for fear of their impacts on legislation and jurisdiction.

27. It is claimed that AI can provide information technologies at will when reach a certain extent, which is extremely dangerous. On one hand, we should attach less significance on AI; on the other hand, the technology itself should be regulated, and technical guidance and requirements should be made. The bicycling sharing business is a negative example: absence of supervision leads to serious consequence. Therefore, tolerance in the name of encouraging innovation and enduring failures is dreadful.

28. As it is data-driven, AI can emit bursts of energy and conduct things far beyond the flow analysis by the mobile Internet. Security and responsibility must be enhanced. If a monopoly is formed, it will be a monopoly of capabilities and resources. Laws, regulations and guiding policies should be utilized to avoid monopolies and at the same time ensure enough openness. Companies capable of monopolizing the market, including AI developers, should be regulated like telecommunication companies, electricity companies and hydropower companies.

29. Currently, rather than a judicial subject or a legal subject, AI is still at a stage of being applied as assistive production equipment, including autonomous robots. The boundary line is whether a robot possesses independent thinking capacity. A robot with independent thinking capacity may choose to conduct behaviours beyond preselected and predetermined

program made by human, or may influence the surroundings. Therefore, laws should be applied to regulate it. A legal definition of the independent thinking capability should be given by experts and technicians, but the definition is not available yet.

30. The boundary of the HI-AI integration in the future should be determined by regulations or a transition system to ensure positive integration instead of uncontrollable integration.

31. A robot guardian responsibility system should be established to confine rights and responsibilities of the property owner.

32. If a robot invade privacy, rights of the legal user should be protected. It is not only relevant to legislation, but also systematic work.

33. Responsibilities of a robot surely should be shouldered by its manufacturer and legal users, no matter the robot is purchased or rented. Whether a robot itself takes responsibilities should be determined by whether it has independent thinking capability. If it is able to think independently, the robot should undertake the legal consequence. A judge should sentence the robot to life end, which means to stop its system.

## **(ii) Supervision**

34. The purpose of using big data is to serve the society. Supervision is essential in ensuring positive utilization.

35. Although there is still a long way to go in the AI development, forward concerns are very necessary.

36. AI may make mistakes, so a set of counter mechanism is required to perform corrections when things go wrong.

37. It should be expected that robots will learn hatred. Management should be set to

prevent negative guidance to human from robots in human-robot communication.

### **(iii) Social responsibilities**

38. To delegate social responsibilities to AI.

39. In the future society, AI should take care of vulnerable groups and benefit everyone.

## **IV. Influential Factors of AI Development**

### **(i) Restraints**

40. A lot of improvements are required to really apply AI in daily lives, including improvements on data, computing capability and commercial development. Enhancement on these three aspects are urgently needed.

41. Technically speaking, in order to make AI accessible at home, there must be a breakthrough in materials to reduce their sizes so as to make AI available for everyone.

42. The prospect of AI application will be better only if all technologies and communication infrastructure develop at the same time.

43. The development of AI enjoys sound momentum currently. The main drag is limitations of laws and regulations. Some laws and regulations are so restrictive that inhibit the industrial development. If we do not break chains and only linger on research, papers and some contests, the industry will not be benefited.

44. Create favourable conditions and provide guidance in policy making and resource distribution to make scientific research and transformation more natural and simpler, and to integrate the industry, university and research.

### **(ii) Talent pool**

45. For China, it is important to own the commanding height of talents to establish core competence for the next stage. More importantly, in terms of the society, talents and human resources required by all levels and businesses of the industry should be cultivated by a step-wise approach. The future AI industry is in demand of high-end talents to conduct top-level design, architecture design and engineering, and it also needs people to change the new industry with these jobs. In addition, the role of human and required skills after the new industry changes should also be considered.

46. Categorize technology education as a basic subject like math, Chinese and English, and improve subject setting and textbooks to mitigate the increasingly serious unemployment problem in the future to avoid the embarrassing situation of "unemployed graduates".

47. It is important to elevate the university-industry integration to a higher level for the purpose of accelerating the development of the whole industry.

48. The talent issue deserves to be discussed as an independent topic. In fact, the re-education of China's university and college is more importantly than education settings.

49. Improve the talent and teaching settings of universities and colleges to address the problem of talent mismatch.

## **V. Development Trend of AI**

### **(i) Development directions**

50. AI has four development directions, namely AI core technology innovations, such as algorithm innovations, voice recognition and image recognition in deep learning; integration of AI and industries; integration of AI and other emerging

technologies, such as block chain technology, cloud computing and Internet of things (IoT); and construction of new or next-generation computing capability.

51. AI will not only be developed in advanced areas, but also applied to individuals.

52. The mark of AI's entry into the golden era is the redefinition of the world, and of required abilities of human in the future society, as well as the integration of AI with all industries to change businesses and achieve industrial innovation and transformation.

53. The grafting of AI and intelligent robots will greatly improve labour productivity and precision of manufactured goods, which is promising at the current development stage of China.

54. In the future era of "smart Internet", AI will serve as the most vital part in the core reform.

55. Data plus intelligence and in-depth industrial integration will really change or remake some industries in the smart Internet era and generate new core value logic in these industries.

56. The financial transaction sector particularly needs the introduction of AI. Enormous data support and extremely fast system are desired to integrate interdepartmental information for the purpose of conducting uniform risk control and management and assisting determination of traders.

57. AI cannot replace HI in a short time. Traders need a tool that can integrate with human rapidly, understand human experience quickly and make fast communication.

58. In the future, AI and intelligent big data will be adopted to address problems generated by intelligence, such

as mechanical problems. Now, many entrepreneurs take a combined approach of IoT and big data plus AI to predict machine defects. Utilizing AI and big data to solve problems of themselves is a new thinking in the industry.

59. The financial industry and the technical world are closely integrated, taking AI to the supervision level.

60. Emotive factors should be added on robots. By imitating emotions, robots can have better understandings of human from various aspects, so that they can better serve human and enter homes indeed.

## **(ii) Arrival of singularity**

61. Human needs to accept the fact that the singularity will arrive although we do not know the specific time.

62. The arrival of singularity depends on the development speed of materials and infrastructure. If the infrastructure development accelerates, the era of singularity will arrive sooner.

63. To some extent, the sooner the singularity arrives, the better.

64. Precautions of the arrival of the singularity should be taken to control and guide the function of human nature before and after the arrival of the singularity as well as the super robots.

65. Although the AI development will be faced with some problem, we cannot throw away the apple because of its core. Any technological progress would deviate. We need to believe risks are controllable, or we will fail to achieve any development.



## Closing Remarks

The year 2017, which is the year of Rooster, marks the fifth anniversary of Taihe Institute. True to our founding purposes, we held this Forum in Beijing with the aim of fulfilling what we set out to achieve.

The elites and specialists from the world are gathered here at the Great Wall, try to explore the historical changes and evolutions, and the differences between China and the rest of the world, in an effort to find a common path forward.

It is said that those who are compassionate are peaceful and steady as a rock, while those who are wise have visions as clear as water. The Forum has served as a platform for us who are like-minded to share our compassions and exchange our ideas.

While human civilization has a long history, change has always been at the very heart of it. Change, however small, will accumulate and add up to a prevailing trend, that will eventually pave the way toward the Great Harmony.

Taihe Institute is honored to have been part of the search for that common path to a global community. It is our pleasure to have these lively debates and discussions, and we are willing to give it all to work for the wellbeing of future generations.

In this ongoing endeavor, Taihe has no better choice than to continue to work with you all.





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