2018

Taihe Civilizations Forum

Content Highlights

September 7-9, 2018

太和文明论坛

Taihe Civilizations Forum

CONTENT

About Taihe Institute

Taihe Institute is one of the leading Chinese think tanks, driven by technology, guided by action and connected with the rest of the world. Founded in 2013, it takes "collaborating of global elites, searching for common values" as its duty. Taihe focuses on contemporary issues that China and the rest of 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 among the world.

Taihe focuses specifically in areas including people-to-people exchange, international politics, nationals and religions, science and technology, education, culture, finance and economics, etc. Taihe has taken programs 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.

Most of our products are 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, among others, 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, among others, the UNESCO, Secretariat of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Brookings Institute, the National Committee on Sino-U.S. Relations, the Einsenhower 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.

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 "impartial, multinational, novel and practical"as its principals. Participants discuss global and regional challenges, explore root causes, and try to identify possible solutions. TCF follows a world-class standard, and is growing to be an academic as well as people-to-people diplomacy platform which possesses global influence.

Introduction of the Taihe Civilizations Forum

Background

It is noted in the Yee Ching, or Book of Changes, a Chinese ancient classics, that "maintaining Taihe will help develop everything smoothly." That said, Taihe stands for a supreme harmony. Such harmony can be achieved through coordination and collaboration among all things and the unity of their nature. Taihe symbolizes the ancient wisdom of life which guides people to rediscover the true meaning of their world. The purpose of Taihe is to obtain continuous wisdom and momentum through the creation of common values.

Nowadays, lack of Taihe seriously challenges contemporary human civilizations. Rapid technological development, climate change and environmental degradation, uneven wealth distribution, and geopolitical tensions are some of the significant threats undermining our common values and civilizations. Human civilizations may fall into the abyss without gathering wisdoms and taking actions.

Objectives and Participants

The Taihe Civilizations Forum (TCF) has been initiated to engage global leaders of all fields in supporting "the harmonious development of common values and the advancement of human civilization." The TCF focuses on global and regional challenges, explores root causes, identifies and promotes possible solutions, as well as facilitates communication and impacts creation across borders.

Forum Principles

The TCF follows four principles to define the research agenda, guide its work and actions, and effectively contribute to the overall Forum objectives:

- Impartiality: maintaining a diverse, open, also rigorous mindset and aligned actions;
- Globality: fostering international participation and collaboration;
- Foresight: focusing on far-reaching trends and long-term solutions;
- Impact: transforming insights into actions and impacts.

Event Review

The first Taihe Civilizations Forum was held in Beijing from August 25th to 27th, 2017, focusing on advancing human civilizations and developing common values. Approximately hundred leading experts from business, governmental, international organizations, and academic sector gathered together to discuss on the topics such as people-to-people exchange, climate change and sustainable development, and artificial intelligence.

Keynote speakers at the opening ceremony of 2017 TCF include:

GU Boping, Director of the National Committee of CPPCC, and the Chief Cultural Scholar of Taihe Institute.

Thorsten Jelinek, Director of the European Center of Taihe Institute.

WU Hailong, President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs.

Stephen Orlins, President of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations.

YU Hongjun, former Vice Minister of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee.

LI Cheng, Director of the John L. Thornton China Center and Senior Fellow of the Foreign Policy program at Brookings Institution.

CUI Liru, Senior Advisor and Researcher of the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations;

DING Yifan, former Deputy Director of the Institute of World Development, Development Research Center of the State Council.

About 2018 TCF

The 2018 TCF was held in Beijing, China from September 7th to 9th, 2018, with the theme of "Science Culture · Future Ethics · Common Values". The 2018 TCF aspires to tap into the scientific spirit shared by humanity and cultivate the healthy scientific culture, seeking for a harmonious relationship between future technology and ethics in the rapid process of modern scientific and technological development, and aiming to promote the construction and adoption of common values. The 2018 TCF will be comprised of three sessions: People-to-People Exchange, Advanced Technology and Sustainable Development. The topics include:

1.People-to-People Exchange

- The new paradigm of people-to-people exchange
- Exchanges between human civilizations and cohesion of common values
- Cultural exchanges along the Belt and Road and the establishment of "community of shared future for mankind"

2.Advanced Technology

- The Latest Trends, Applications and Implications of Biotechnology and Artificial Intelligence
- Technological Development and Social Ethics
- China and the Future Development of Science and Technology

3.Sustainable Development

- Overcoming structural obstacles to sustainable development
- Up-scaling green technologies and industries
- China's new role in global sustainable development

Members of the Presidium

Irina Bokova

Senior Fellow of Taihe Institute, former Director-General of UNESCO, Honorary President of the Global Hope Coalition, former Foreign Minister of Bulgaria, and former Ambassador of Bulgaria in France and Monaco.

Rashid Alimov

Senior Fellow of Taihe Institute, former Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (2016-2018), former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, former Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan in the United Nations, and former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in China.

WU Hailong

President of Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland.

YUAN Ming

Dean of Yenching Academy at Peking University, and Professor at the School of International Studies at Peking University.

CUI Liru

Senior Researcher of Taihe Institute, PhD Supervisor on American Politics and Diplomacy at China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, and former President and Senior Consultant of China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations.

Stephen Orlins

President of the National Committee on US-China Relations, former Managing Director of Carlyle Asia, former Chairman of the board of Taiwan Broadband Communications, and former senior advisor to AEA Investors Inc.

John Holden

President & CEO of the US-China Strong Foundation, former Associate Dean at the Yenching Academy of Peking University, former President of the National Committee on China-U.S. Relations, and Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China.

GU Boping

Chief Cultural Scholar of Taihe Institute, member of the 12th session of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and Vice Chairman of the Theoretical Research Institute of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Speeches Delivered By the Distinguished Participants

Irina Bokova

Senior Fellow of Taihe Institute and Former Director-General of UNESCO

Dear Mr. Peng Binge, Chairman of Taihe Institute, Mr. Rashid Alimov, Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as well as distinguished former presidents and former prime ministers.

First of all, I would like to thank Taihe Institute for having me to be the member of the presidium of the Taihe Civilizations Forum and Chairperson of the first Forum Assembly. It was an honor to accept the invitation when I visited Taihe Institute in May.

For the past eight years, I have devoted myself to improving communication in areas such as education, culture and other related fields at UNESCO, which has made impressive progress and yielded good results. Now, as we discuss the era of globalization and global connectivity, the biggest challenge standing in our way is how best to preserve the educational and cultural longevity of the Chinese civilization. Furthermore, how to make the right choices as policy makers in order to establish

a common ground at the level of international cooperation so that all humans can co-exist? Co-existence both as an international family, but more importantly, how humans can co-exist with nature? These questions have become important topics for the Taihe Civilizations Forum.

Science and technology, climate change, and how to develop the ethics for human coexistence have become the most pressing challenges we as humans face today. From my experience at UNESCO, when it comes to science and technology, culture, international cooperation and other important topics, soft power is the most important support and foundation, which should be placed under the global political agenda for further exploration. I believe that China is fully aware of the importance of

soft power. During his first visit to the United Nations Headquarters in 2014, President Xi Jinping said in a speech at UNESCO, on his first UN trip:

"That human beings live in a world of different cultures, races, colors, religions and social systems and that over the course of the current era people of all countries have formed "a community of shared future".

I believe that his passionate speech is a reflection of the problems that we need to solve now. Only by building trust and confidence among different countries can we achieve common development.

Even to this day, many citizens and communities around the world are still living with the burden and peril of violence and extremism. Due to such violence and extremism globally, the common heritage of mankind coexisting together is being threatened and the integration of cultures is inhibited. We need to create a platform and set good examples to show that dialogue and positive interaction can take place between cultures. Only in this way can we finally achieve harmonious coexistence between culture and society. I am convinced that we can do more than that. With the help of technological innovations, cultural dialogues and assisted by UNESCO, we can cultivate future citizens in areas along the "Belt and Road", whom I call the "Silk Road citizens".

It takes more than one tree to make a forest, and only by making concerted efforts, can we achieve the coexistence of human civilization and make human society more inclusive, peaceful and prosperous. In the end, once again, congratulations on the opening of the Second Taihe Civilizations Forum and I wish this forum a complete success. Thank you everyone!

Rashid Alimov

Senior Fellow of Taihe Institute and Former Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (2016-2018)

Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon! Dear Mr. Peng Binge, chairman of Taihe Institute, Mrs. Irina Bokova, and distinguished participants, I am very honored to be amongst many prestigious politicians, scientists and public figures and take part in the Taihe Civilizations Forum. Undoubtedly, this forum will be a great fortune for the extensive dialogue and cooperation among various countries, cultures and even civilizations.

As international relations are undergoing profound changes at present, such a dialogue mechanism is very important to us as there is huge political and moral significance to it. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization ("SCO") is fully aware of this. All SCO member states are equal participants in this dialogue, which is also the standard for its existence because all our decisions need to be made on the basis of consensus.

SCO includes eight countries spanning three oceans, cooperating with hundreds of countries and nationalities and approximately 43% of the world's population in geopolitical terms. Historically, SCO region has seen many great thinkers and outstanding scientists who have made indelible contributions to the development of human civilization. There are also a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites within the region, including four of the world's major religions: Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity and Islam.

For SCO members, the dialogue mechanism between civilizations is an effective guarantee for jointly addressing the most dangerous international actors and issues, such as: international terrorism and extremism. It is through dialogues of mutual respect that SCO member states have cooperated extensively in security, economy and culture. Regardless of how fierce we may argue on some issues all parties hope to reach an agreement. The interests of SCO-related countries are intertwined with our common interests, so this type of cooperation is of far-reaching historical significance.

The SCO has strong historic ties to the Silk Road. Both on land and sea, the Maritime Silk Road, and the Ancient Tea Horse Road both being examples of that. In ancient times, some countries contributed to the development and prosperity of civilizations through dialogue, trade, and cultural exchanges. Although the civilizations of the SCO member states are products of different cultures, however, they all have their roots in the common history of the Silk Road.

Within the framework of SCO, continuous dialogues between different cultures and civilizations have allowed us to mutually understand each other better and create stronger ties to the people of SCO family. The dialogue mechanism within the framework of SCO keeps expanding every year, which is good for us to set goals that we intend to materialize and achieve common development. The world is witnessing the recovery of three great ancient passages, thanks to the Belt and Road Initiative. President Xi Jinping has proposed the improvement of interconnection among SCO countries. This is thanks to the expanding of infrastructure such as: roads, railways, bridges and ensuring transportation hubs are globally intertwined. Within a short period of time, the number of regular flights between the eight SCO countries has doubled. SCO countries have different demographic, economic, scientific and technological prospects, making it very important that the opinions and thoughts of each member country be heard in fairness and earnest. Most importantly, such a dialogue mechanism allows us to make joint efforts to ensure peace, maintain security, deepen the friendship among the people of countries concerned, and promote mutually beneficial cooperation in the true sense.

SCO is working actively to develop international relations and step up dialogue and exchanges with the UN and its agencies, especially the UNESCO, as well as other regional organizations in Asia and Europe. Today, I am very happy to see that SCO has a new dialogue platform, which is our Taihe Civilizations Forum. I expect to see more participants from a wider range of fields to join this forum in the near future, and this will certainly take the value of the Taihe Civilizations Forum up a notch. I wish the forum a complete success, thank you!

Ivo Josipovic

Former President of the Republic of Croatia

Thanks to Taihe Institute for giving me this opportunity to be here and share with you my thoughts on new technology. Today's meeting is very important for us, because we are living in a new era. I believe that advanced technology not only improves progress in some areas, but also allows further development to take place. Furthermore, it allows strategic changes in the society and the world possible. Like other technologies, advanced technology is morally neutral, depending on whether we use it to benefit the human race or abuse it to harm individuals and even the entire human civilization.

Advanced technology has an inherent influence on our society, which the society needs to get used to, and its influence on politics, economy, ethics and culture depends entirely on the degree to which the society is getting used to it. At present, many countries have become leading players in the research and development of advanced technologies. For unskilled workers, some of these technological advancements may come as a surprise. For example, the Philippines have a huge number of high-tech start-ups; the advanced e-government system used by France was brought in from Estonia; Finland has highly advanced communication and medical technologies, and Stockholm, Sweden enjoys the world's highest employment rate of skilled personnel. In addition, Singapore and South Korea are also frontrunners in IT technology, especially South Korea, which is home to many famous brands, such as Samsung, Hyundai, LG, etc. Israel has many highly successful high-tech companies in military, satellite, Internet, medicine and other fields. Germany takes the lead in medical, military and engineering technologies. The German government has always supported various organizations and universities in their scientific research. Many foundations are benchmark scientific research and education institutions in Europe. The United States, a high-tech powerhouse, houses many world-renowned technology companies, including Google, Facebook, Intel, Microsoft and so on,

with a great many start-ups still coming to the horizon in Silicon Valley each day. The United States planned military spending for 2019 is nearly $680 billion, which is more than any other major countries military spending including China, Russia, Britain, France, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Japan, India, and South Korea. A large part of this money is going to military research and development. Japan is also considered a key player in the high-tech industry, with many world-leading high-tech companies such as Canon, Sony and Toyota.

Thirty years ago, it might occur to few people that Russia, India, and China would one day compete with the United States technologically, or challenge the dominance of the United States in the high-tech arena. Russia has made impressive progress in space technology, while China and India have leapt forward in nuclear energy, medicine, chemistry, medical care, oil and gas, and high-tech fields. China is the world's second largest economy. Many Western companies have transferred their production and communications, transportation, nuclear energy, space technology and construction projects to China. China also has large-scale infrastructure investment projects represented by the

Belt and Road initiative. Ten years ago, China had already outperformed the United States in high-voltage transmission, high-speed rail, coal technology, nuclear power, alternative energy vehicles, renewable energy, batteries, solar energy and many other fields, especially high-performance computers, which can be used in scientific research, intelligence analysis and other fields. It is in China's interest to constantly be competitive in this "technological war", which began at the very beginning of the 21st century. In the hope of becoming a big innovation-driven country, China has been reforming and investing in corresponding policies and financial support, which in return attracted many multinational companies to transfer their latest technologies to the country. The Belt and Road Initiative has brought in the world's largest financial and technology projects, which will benefit both China and other participating countries. Moreover, the rapid development of China especially, as well as Russia and India, has led to new changes in global market as well as in the geopolitical arena. The world today is no longer a unipolar one dominated by the United States. More and more countries are beginning to play important roles in geopolitics, economy and military.

What are the challenges we face now and in the future? What kind of political and economic impacts will advanced technology have on us? First of all, advanced technology can bring us more efficient production and brand-new products. Companies using advanced technology will see their profits go up further, while those failing to employ advanced technology will risk financial consequences. Secondly, we will see new jobs and industries created and new skills developed. An issue of rapid technological advancement will be the need for current employees to constantly update their skills and adapt to industry changes, otherwise employees may face the risk of short-term or long-term unemployment. Finally, at the national level, advanced technology is bound to cause social and political changes in many countries, just as we saw during the industrial revolution of the mid-18th and 19th centuries. For instance, use of advanced technology in agricultural production will increase agricultural output and reduce famine, which is a benefit for countries with a huge population, such as China and India.

Advanced technology will trigger new demands for new skills and new knowledge. In education, for example, tremendous changes will take place from primary school to university, including lifelong learning. Of course, not only in the educational content, but the entire educational method will be subject to change. Computers, e-books, visualization technologies, and the Internet will become increasingly important.

Apart from that, transportation and communication technologies are also expected to see significant improvement in the future, which will allow us to make further progress in business, tourism, learning and even quality of life. E-governments will change how a country interacts with its citizens, such as electronic elections, which will require governments to have an effective control over such projects and allow adequate transparency throughout the process. Political activities are also changing. People are using the Internet to spread their ideas more often, which poses a significant threat to our democracy through the dispersion of misinformation via the internet. While technological advancements allow governments to better manage its citizens and combat terrorism and illegal activities, they also provide criminals and terrorists with new means and ways to engage in illegal activities.

A very important question we face in modern society is: how much privacy and human rights are we willing to give up for more security in life? How should we restrict the rulers to avoid abuses of power and human rights violations?

Advanced technology can help mankind protect nature, although sometimes it causes pollution. We need to ask ourselves: are the evolving technologies making our society better or worse?

In his book "What Technology Wants", Kevin Kelly wrote that technology wants more efficiency, more opportunities, more complexity, more diversity, more professionalism, more universality and more freedom. The development of biology and technology will be intertwined in the future, and the relationship between nature and technology will determine the advantages and disadvantages of advanced technology. At the same time, the development of social relations will decide the advantages and disadvantages of advanced technology. For example, if the application of advanced technology has increased or decreased the employment rate, whether it causes unfair distribution, how it affects democracy and human rights, whether it has improved people's quality of life, and whether it can ensure the peace and stability of human society. I believe that new technologies will turn into new tools for improving the well-being of humans, and I really hope that new technologies can advance human development. Although, it is also my belief that the development of new technologies should be restrained by new ethics and new policies.

Bujar Nishani

Former President of the Republic of Albania

Human beings come from nature and were born with the need to cooperate and communicate. Everyone is part of a family, a school, a society, a country, a region or other collectives, in which they share common interests and needs. There has to be a way of coexistence that allows different collectives to live peacefully together, to eliminate disputes, and to ignore differences in religion, gender, politics, and even morality which are the root causes for mass conflicts between different collectives. In terms of the coexisting strategy, different groups and collectives can co-exist and resolve all disputes if they respect each other, recognize each other, respect differences, and communicate in a more inclusive manner.

However, the world is still rife with disrespect and aggression that repels coexistence and ignore other cultures and civilizations, which have led to destruction, conflicts, hatred and wars. History is the best teacher, especially when it comes to the illustration of achievements and lessons of civilization. Civilization educates the soul and cultivates a soft character, knowledge humbles a person, while information makes one more far-sighted. Only when we can talk to each other and show respect to different civilizations can human coexistence be achieved. Coexistence is impossible without mutual benefit and mutual respect, which explains why the world is so concerned about this topic.

The world is a diverse place. The world today is very concerned about diversity and has come to realize the existence of a crisis in diversity. Lets take Albania as an example. It is a small country in the Balkans. Unfortunately, it was historically the center of many wars and regional conflicts, such as the First World War, which began with the spread of quarrels and hatred among countries in the Balkans. The war in the Balkans subsequently brought about division and hatred. Although Albania is situated at the center of European civilization and prosperity, the region was still wriggling in turmoil and war 20 years ago. All wars were caused by morality, religion, nationality, and hatred. They were also caused by a refusal to accept coexistence and a lack of respect for the cultures, rights and interests of other countries. Fortunately, peace and stability have been restored in this area.

Peace, stability and the coexistence of cultural civilizations can only be possible when the jointly-established mechanism shows mutual respect and understanding. In particular, we need to pay special attention to religion and belief, which are often the causes for disputes between different civilizations and cultures and can easily lead to conflicts and wars. Albania is a small country where all religions are respected, setting an example in the coexistence of religions. Albania is a multi-religious country where Islam, Catholicism and Orthodoxy coexist in harmony and have shown understanding for each other in the past several hundred years. Families from communities and societies of different religious backgrounds celebrate every religious festival together to enjoy the charm and excitement of these festivals.

During World War II, Albania provided shelter in citizens' homes to all Jews in Albania and some of the Jews fleeing Nazi persecution in other European countries. After the war, the Jewish population of Albania doubled from its pre-war level, which was unique in Europe. Albania has a small community of Muslims. This community funded the construction of a Catholic church in the village, and this happened just a few years ago. There was an Albanian in Kolkata, India, who devoted his lifetime to

serving and caring for the poorest areas and people living there. He once said, "If every Hindu is a good Hindu, every Buddhist a good Buddhists, every Catholic a good Catholic, every Muslim a good Muslim; if one can live a good life with faith, hope and respect; if religious beliefs do not stand in the way of unity or turn into causes of conflicts, they will become the most valuable asset for creating new value." The harmonious coexistence of multiple religions in Albania is a new demonstration of the harmonious development of human civilization, which may also contribute to more efficient exchanges and coexistence as well as ensuring peace and prosperity.

Nowadays, culture and civilization are increasingly intertwined with technological development. On one hand, science is still the foundation of culture and society, exerting an influence on society, individuals and all aspects of life. As an important driving force of the economy, science and technology foster innovation and breed new economic development models. The development of science and technology has had a tremendous impact on the lives of everyone today. On the other hand, while the development of science and technology are whilst approached with optimism by the masses, it may also be the root cause of debate and fighting. The mass media can play an active and constructive role in this regard by providing an open dialogue platform for holding free discussions, improving tolerance, fighting against indifference, and eliminating ideological influences. Above all, education remains the most efficient and important tool, in mutual understanding and mutual respect. Education can address the root causes of cultural, social, economical, political and religious conflicts, which are also the primary causes of civilization and cultural clashes which have the potential to turn violent.

Enhancing mutual understanding and tolerance allows groups of different nationalities, societies, cultures and languages to live together in different countries. To put an end to the fear and discrimination of each other should also be a goal of the Taihe Civilizations Forum. As we have already seen, many foreign universities are offering Chinese courses. Though thousands of mountains and rivers apart in geography, with the help of culture and language, people in different countries can understand each other better, convey information and exchange feelings, build connectivity from the bottom of their hearts and achieve common cooperation.

I believe the Taihe Civilizations Forum will contribute more to promoting mutual understanding, advancing cultural and civilization integration, and creating new modes of cooperation.

Zlatko Lagumdzija

Former Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina

How long does it take to consume 10 million tons of carbon dioxide? According to data from the World Bank and the World Life Foundation, it takes a substantial amount time to consume the excess carbon dioxide. At the same time, it also takes a very large area of forest, about 6% of the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Now, air pollution is already very serious, several times that caused by the atomic bombing of Hiroshima during World War II.

A few months ago, economist Jeffrey suggested that I should read the classics of ancient writers again, but from a modern perspective, such as from the perspectives of professional theory and practical wisdom, which were often compared by Aristotle. In the new era, significant changes have taken place in human history. Both types of knowledge have seen impressive progress and are developing very rapidly.

Why do we say human society has a very good chance of self-rescue in the face of the ultimate danger and has started a new journey to shape a common future and achieve social prosperity? Why is there no other way to create a better future than achieving harmony between man, nature and technology? Scientists have provided the necessary expertise for this: the need to quickly abandon the use of fossil fuels and shift to clean energy. Of course, there is artificial intelligence. Complete realization of artificial intelligence is called an "odd point". Many thinkers and practitioners believe that the next decade will see the IQ of super artificial intelligence reach 10,000, which is 50 times that of Einstein. There will be 100 billion artificially intelligent machines, outnumbering the entire human

population. In addition, there will be a trillion IoT-connected devices in the future. So, in the next 20 years, there will be more opportunities in augmented reality to make men and women better, smarter and more powerful. The nature of our work, the nature of the organization, the social connections of individual countries, and even the entire world, are likely to see dramatic changes, more drastic than it was before the year of 2000.

Undoubtedly, everyone needs to face technological advancement in the future. While technology is not only a tool to push economic growth and accumulate wealth, the government should never use it only as a tool and weapon to obtain power. We need to use technology to achieve various goals. The world today is full of challenges and disputes. Throughout the world and in some regions, there have been increasing calls for using technology to achieve greater goals than merely gaining economic

growth, wealth and power, which is why more practical wisdom is needed. We need the practical wisdom of ancient thinkers to guide us so that we can work together to develop a common policy for economic development, to share values, and to create a common future.

While every ordinary person is unique, there is no reason for self-indulgence. We should take our planet more seriously than we do now, because we know that human beings are not the masters of the earth. We should keep reminding ourselves that we are not the saviors of the earth. The question we should ask is: will humans still live on the earth in the future? Will life in the future be as good as it is now? This is our mission in the future. I hope that we can further unite and work together through platforms like the Taihe Civilizations Forum to promote human progress and create a better future through joint leadership and concerted efforts.

Jan Fischer

Former Prime Minister of the Czeh Republic

Advanced technology will influence the world in many ways. What we need to consider is not only how to develop more advanced technologies, but also how to make advanced technologies serve human civilization and keep human beings more united, rather than divide them. This is a very serious ethical issue and an issue to be covered by the sustainability panel of this Taihe Civilizations Forum. Advanced technology should be used to promote economic and social development and protect the environment. Surely, there are many other issues and constraints that may destroy the balance between the economy and society.

Regarding the topic of cultural exchanges, I think an open and in-depth discussion is necessary, not only about common values, but also about what kind of values can be shared and how. More importantly, we need to notice what is happening in today's world and make analyses.

In Central and Eastern Europe, many broken countries are hoping to re-establish a democratic system, but they are facing more problems than expected. As the human race keeps growing, we have had new goals. Now, China, India, Russia, Brazil and other countries on the world stage have to understand what the future goals are and what kind of roles they play. That is why we need a good way to communicate with each other. Sometimes, especially in Eurasia, communication between many countries has gone wrong. In this new era, we need to consider issues like populism, terrorism, violence, and the tendency towards fragmentation in the world. Many countries are fighting against a growing aging problem, some have seen excessive population growth, and some are plagued by limited natural resources including drinking water.

New information and communication technologies are pushing forward human progress, but they have also created a digital divide in many countries, which is beyond the prediction of those who invented these devices. So, we need to ask ourselves whether we have found a new paradigm of world politics or geopolitics and whether we have determined the role of government and non-governmental organizations. Our world and the trends of world development are becoming increasingly unpredictable. In spite of the huge amount of data we have now, it is very difficult to predict various crises or events and trends in the coming decades. For example, it is very hard to foretell the crisis that may occur in a certain area, and such a prediction in itself is very likely to have a significant impact and increase world instability. The problem is that sharing values is simple to say, but difficult to do. It requires understanding of human nature, tolerance, and coexistence and a pursuit for freedom and peace.

Who should be responsible for this? Who should spread these shared values? Who should be responsible for protecting these values? Are they international organizations, non-governmental organizations, or political elites? I think, on one hand, the world's political elites should be the first to take on these responsibilities. They should serve citizens rather than a certain ideology. This is the role of political elites. Sometimes, political elites should do more and talk less to create a better international and domestic political atmosphere, which is very important and crucial for them. On the other hand, everyone should contribute. Experts, scholars, professors, artists, every institution and every citizen should undertake these responsibilities. Further discussions are needed as to how this should be done in reality, but it is necessary that we keep an optimistic mind, though it is not easy. We need to be positive. Only those with an optimistic attitude can play a better role in disseminating the common values.

Dzhoomart Otorbaev

Former Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic

Good afternoon, everyone! Today we are gathered here to attend a great opening ceremony and hear some extremely enlightening speeches. Whenever we talk about world issues, we all hope to get down to more specific issues, and the Taihe Civilizations Forum provides such a mechanism and platform.

When it comes to the fundamental causes for this morbid world, we tend to assume the lack of respect for other countries stems from nationalism, the destruction of society by terrorism, and the transformation of politics, which we all think are products of our times. In fact, this morbid state is caused by a string of problems including technological development, climate change, unequal status and geopolitics.

What should be noticed is that in this era, we have been pursuing the highest principle of "harmonious coexistence". To realize this requires a long-term vision. For everyone and every country now, having such a vision is of uttermost importance and ever more urgency than ever because the principle of "harmonious coexistence" offers a solution to problems of this era. This time, as we come here for the Taihe Civilizations Forum, I think we now have such a mechanism and platform to discuss how to deal with these morbid problems.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in the beginning of 2013, President Xi Jinping proposed the Belt and Road Initiative at the National University of Kyrgyzstan and since then five years have passed. The Belt and Road Initiative can link the ancient, present and future development of relevant regions and restore the glory of the past. This is why I often visit China. I hope to learn from China and give my personal advice for promoting the development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

There is a simple question which everyone asks: Is this initiative likely to fall through and lose its effectiveness? Obviously, the answer is possibly, because there is a risk of failure for any country, not only China, to promote an initiative on its own. When we rely solely on our own efforts, we give up the possibility of bringing in more regions and countries and tapping into more potential. Therefore, I hope

that I can play a part to bring the Belt and Road Initiativereal success.

Talking about the interconnecting and bridging role of Central Asia in the Belt and Road Initiative, there is a multiple-choice question about future development, which holds the key to the success of the entire region. What I want to say is that we should talk about the priority areas of the Belt and Road Initiative in this forum. Let's begin with the more common and frequently heard part, such as building bridges and oil and gas pipelines, which are the easiest part in the Belt and Road Initiative. China has already created a miracle with its domestic infrastructure development. It is not difficult to transplant its engineering technology and experience in infrastructure construction to countries along the "Belt and Road".

But what I want to say is that advancing the Belt and Road Initiative is not as simple as infrastructure construction. What's more important is to put people in the center of the initiative, that is, to instill a deeper understanding between people so that different countries can understand the differences from each other in terms of family views, religions, and personalities. This is actually very difficult because it is difficult for people to accept and assimilate into a diverse culture. That's why we must strengthen the foundation for promoting and expanding friendship. As the former Czech Prime Minister just mentioned, and also a celebrity once said that, there is no use over discussing one issue. Without trust, what we say is futile. Therefore, trust is very important for the coexistence of and exchanges between cultures. This is also my sincere suggestion for the Belt and Road Initiative, because each of us hopes that the Belt and Road Initiative will come around as a great success.

Just now, a distinguished participant talked about soft power. Enhancing cultural exchanges and cooperation should be the core of the Belt and Road Initiative, which is one of the world's largest inter-regional cooperation projects. Only by developing the Cultural Silk Road, establishing emotional connections between countries in different regions, and building trust and friendship can we achieve greater success. I hope that we will commit to this and work together, thank you!

CHEN Zhimin

Senior Researcher of Taihe Institute, President of China Association for Friendship and former Vice Minister of the Ministry of Public Security of PRC

Today, I want to take this opportunity to share some of my thoughts on the ownership of data in the upcoming era of big data for mankind. Focusing on the coexistence and sharing of human civilizations, today's Taihe Civilizations Forum explores the root causes of conflicts and issues in the hope of finding a way out. This theme is of great practical significance and far-reaching historical significance for stepping up civilization exchanges between countries and regions as well as for advancing the harmonious and sustainable development of human society.

In recent centuries, a row of scientific and technological revolutions have triggered tremendous changes in human society, ushering in an era of rapid development of scientific and technological civilization. Scientific and technological development has brought unprecedented prosperity to human society, but it has also caused shocking impacts, giving rise to colonial expansion, world wars, terrorist attacks and nuclear threats, for which human beings have paid a heavy price. How to steer scientific and technological changes towards the direction of enhancing fairness, equality, prosperity and security in the human society is one of the key issues for the Taihe Civilizations Forum.

Nowadays, a new round of global technology and industrial revolution is brewing, with the digital economy represented by the Internet, Internet of Things, big data, cloud computing and artificial intelligence penetrating into various fields and deeply integrating with traditional industries at a faster

pace. In particular, the digital economy is undergoing a major transformation, driving a transformation of production methods, a re-engineering of production relations as well as a restructuring of economic structures and bringing about dramatic changes in lifestyles. In the due course, new technologies, new industries, new business formats, and new models will emerge in an endless stream. But all these should be based on and supported by the collection, processing and use of data. Data is the core resource of the digital economy and the information society. It has been hailed as the oil and diamond mine of the 21st century, just like land in the agricultural society and capital in the industrial society.

However, one prominent problem remains: the proprietorship of data. No unified, complete, and universal definition in theory has been put in place, nor has the law endowed it the properties

of assets. Therefore, the proprietorship of data, such as ownership, using rights, management rights, trading rights, and possession rights, have not been fully recognized or clearly defined by relevant laws. In particular, the international community has not reached a consensus or worked out any common rules in this regard, which has led to some conflicts, even clashes and combats, in international relations in many countries. The proprietorship of data will weigh heavily on the security, development and future of human society.

First of all, data proprietorship has become a major issue related to national security, public security, cyber security, citizens' personal privacy and the security of the international community. Many countries have noticed this problem, especially after the Snowden incident, and some countries took legislative means to localize data. Thus, it has become a growing trend. This year, however, the United States gave a quick pass to the Clarifying Lawful Overseas Use of Data Act (CLOUD Act), and the European Union released the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), both of which extend the proprietorship data beyond the national and coalition levels to include the overseas world, arousing heated debate within the international community.

Secondly, the proprietorship is related to whether the emerging digital economy can develop in a healthy, safe and sustainable manner. The ownership of means of production, as the core and foundation of social production relations, determines how people relate to each other in social production and how products are distributed. Data is the most important means of production in the digital economy, and the ownership of data is therefore the most important ownership relationship. It is necessary to clarify the right to collect, analyze, store, and use data in the course of its formation. Then, as we integrate data with the real economy, it is necessary to clarify the ownership, using rights, management rights, possession rights, distribution rights and consumption rights, etc. In business activities, a clear proprietorship of data also constitutes the basis for how to establish the criteria for assessing the value of data assets, how to collect tax, how to allocate equities, how to distribute income, and how to make deals in the market, etc.

Thirdly, data proprietorship will have a direct impact on the future destiny of human society. In the era of market economy, it is the law of value, or the "invisible hand", that regulates the allocation of social

resources. In the era of digital economy, however, the needs and preferences of all participants in the market can be reflected through data. Big data will become the "visible hand" to directly intervene in and play a dominant role in the allocation of social resources. Therefore, whoever owns the data shall gain control over the society, the world, and even the future. Combined with artificial intelligence, big data is expected to reshape human society.

Amid this huge transformation, we have to produce a scientific overall design in terms of common interests and equal security of the entire human society so that data proprietorship can be rationally allocated among the country, enterprises, groups, citizens, and the international community and data resources can benefit all people economically and socially. Failure to do so may end in data oligarchy and data hegemony, which will lead to data monopoly, dictatorship and exploitation, as well as concentration of wealth and power, thereby intensifying the inequality and unfairness of the entire human society. Therefore, some experts have predicted that there may be only three kinds of people in the future society: useless people, people without autonomy (people controlled by artificial intelligence) and very few fully autonomous people who control algorithms. Other scholars have even come up with a ratio, saying that 2% of the world's population will control the future. Either be one of them or be out. According to this concept, in China, which has a population of nearly 1.4 billion, only 30 million people will make to the 2% and the remaining 1.3 billion people will be eliminated. What a dire and scary consequence! If this turns to be true, the society will be severely torn and normal social ethics severely bashed. The social consequences will be desperate, and the harm to the entire human society shall be no less than that caused by the two world wars. Even the safety and happiness of our next generation and generations after that will be threatened. Do we have a full understanding of this? Are we fully prepared for this?

At the same time, data proprietorship is also a global issue. To avoid imbalances, conflicts, confrontations and even cyber wars due to the conflicts arising from data resources, the international community should make joint efforts to explore and formulate scientific, reasonable, balanced and universally beneficial theories and rules under the UN framework. A fair and rational international order should be put in place for the cyberspace on the basis of national sovereignty so that we can all contribute to the building of "a community of shared future for mankind" proposed by Chinese

President Xi Jinping.

While working as the deputy Minister of Public Security, I had deeply felt the importance of data to interstate relations, to national security, and to the inter-relations in the international community. At that time, some countries sought to impose sanctions against our country with the belief that China had stolen relevant data. We had several rounds of dialogues and established a dialogue mechanism to solve this problem in a relatively satisfactory manner. In the future, I think, the problem is likely to become more prominent and more severe.

Next, I'll give you a brief introduction to the China Association for Friendship. It was founded in 1985 as a social group that is committed to promoting international friendship and strengthening overseas relations. At present, the Association has established friendly ties with more than 140 international organizations in 45 countries and signed memorandum of cooperation with eight international organizations. The Association has carried out active exchanges in politics, economy, science and technology, culture, ethnic religion, and especially security. This year, we held the 2018 Press Conference for Ambassadors to China, the Seminar on Challenges and Prospects of Sino-US Relations in the New Era, the China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Security Exchange Meeting under the framework of the trilateral dialogue mechanism between the foreign ministers of China, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the Cyber Security International Cooperation Forum during the just-concluded World Internet Conference. We have also scheduled a forum to jointly create a safe environment during the third "Silk Road Business Leaders Summit" to be held next month. We are very pleased to enhance friendship and build partnerships with friendly groups of countries through dialogues, forums and other forms of multilateral communication.

Finally, I wish this forum a complete success, thank you!

<div style="text-align:center">

Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremony

Some Thoughts on People-to-people Exchanges between Countries

</div>

WU Hailong

President of Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs

What is the purpose of People-to-people exchanges? It all comes down to: "increasing trust, dispelling doubts, and learning from each other." People-to-people exchanges are universal and extensive. Directly oriented towards foreign people, they cover a huge diversity of targets and are conducted in a flexible manner, through which things can be explained in detail and in depth. Besides, it has a low level of political risk and sensitivity. That is why people-to-people exchanges are playing an increasingly important role in the interstate relations.

In a world full of complexity, interwoven interests, overlapping conflicts, economic imbalances, social alienation and cognitive confusion, only through communication can we resolve conflicts, narrow discrepancies, close distances, increase trust and dispel doubts. May the world have; less suspicion, less misunderstanding, less discrepancies and less hatred. All whilst having; more understanding, more harmony and more goodwill. In the 21st century, the means of communication have never been more advanced and convenient. Compared with the endless problems we are now facing, our

communication has reduced rather than increased! We have too many issues to be settled, too many lessons to learn from each other, too many problems to be explained and too many questions to be answered. Take the Belt and Road Initiative as an example, five years into its advancement, the initiative has won widespread praise, but many doubts are still present. Not long ago, I had a dinner with former French President Hollande. He asked me what the specific purpose of the Initiative was. I was a little taken aback, however from the seriousness and earnestness in his eyes, I believed he really had some doubts about the initiative. Thus, I felt this an important opportunity to share my opinion. Among the politicians I have received, there are many who had similiar questions, such as; what kind of role does China intend to play in the international order? Will China take the place of the United States? Will China export its development model? Do you still consider China to as a developing country? Whilst they may have their own answers to these questions, they saw the value in my opinion for developing a comprehensive understanding of China. However, I believe they really have little idea about China, like looking at flowers in the fog. The reasons for this may vary, but I think the main reason lies in our failure to tell the story of China in a clear and easy-to-understand way. In some cases, the information available is confusing or even contradicting, which tends to arouse doubts.

We have recently received a Canadian media group, of which a majority of them had never been to China before. As some Canadian media outlets have portrayed China as a largely populated and dense country, known to be oppressive and confronting. This was therefore the perception the Canadian media group had. However, after a tour of several Chinese provinces and cities, they were stunned by China's development and thus, their impression of the country changed completely. They don't think of China as oppressive or confronting country. On the contrary, they feel China is a respectable and admirable country. This should be counted as an example of successful communication.

Not long ago, I went to Tibet with some Belgian parliamentarians. They arrived with a wealth of questions regarding Tibet. They toured the well maintained Potala Palace, saw an endless stream of devout men and women at the Jokhang Temple, and strolled through the bustling market in Barkhor Street. After this, they seemed to have noticed the progress in Tibet, the inheritance and protection of the Tibetan culture, and the freedom of religious belief. It was not my intention to "indoctrinate", or "brainwash" the parliamentarians. However, upon departure, they felt that Tibet was just like their second hometown and they had left with many fond memories. They even proposed to be spokespersons for the Tibetan yaks. This is a prime an example of the charm of "communication".

A few days ago, the Association received a delegation of senior senators of the Dominican Republic who had just established diplomatic relations with China. Only one of the five had ever visited China and thus had little knowledge about China. For this reason, we gave them a comprehensive introduction to China's political, economic, and social development, and arranged for them to have a tour of the high-tech development zone, the Yangshan deep-water port, the robot automation company, and the urban planning museum in Shanghai. They were also arranged to visit the border city of Manzhouli. They highly impressed of China's advancement in development. On several occasions, they exclaimed, "China is awesome! The future belongs to China!". This visit has strengthened their determination and confidence in advancing the Dominica-China relations. The Dominican Republic Senators expressed that although their country is small, the Dominican Republic they hope that they can maintain a mutually beneficial relationship. They emphasized that relations between both countries should be equal and mutually beneficial, that Dominica shall not rely on charity, nor will it become a market for the surplus products of China. This is a vivid reflection of "to be friendly and candid with each other" in people-to-people exchanges.

With all these experiences, I have some thoughts and feelings to share with you about people-to-people exchanges:

First of all, the essence of people-to-people exchanges lies in "respecting each other and treating each other as equals". Respect others, and you will win respect from others. Some people say that "respect holds the key to spiritual communication." As long as you respect others and treat others with kindness, the door to communication will open. In my diplomatic career, I have run into people who were overbearing, who assumed themselves as teachers, and who were always ready to judge and preach. Communication with such people invariably ended in tit-for-tat verbal battles, ultimately inhibiting mutually beneficial discussion from taking place. I believe that negative communication, be that through belittling ones opinions or views, or distorting the facts, both ruins the atmosphere by inhibiting productive discourse from taking place, and preventing positive outcomes from arising.

Secondly, generally speaking, everyone wants to tell a good story through people-to-people exchanges, but you've got to have a good story before telling one. With fake chips, counterfeit vaccines, misleading academies and poisonous food, no one will believe in your story however eloquent you are. As long as you achieve a positive outcome, people will be convinced of your capability and give you their approval, regardless of how simple your language is or whatever communication paradigm you use to tell your story.

Thirdly, people are the key to people-to-people exchanges. Those participating in people-to-people exchanges need to have good qualities, rich knowledge, rational thinking, an objective attitude, and deep insights. In addition, they must be sincere and candid. We are not short of bragging experts and scholars. What we lack are kind and charismatic talents who, have the ability to carry out rational and in-depth communication. As far as I know, some exchanges are like "crooked-mouthed monks chanting sutras in disorder "; some do not distinguish between targets, occasions, echoing what is in place and disregarding actual effects; some exchanges are silly, meaningless and not to the point; some are concealing and deviated from the truth. With all these depressing circumstances, who wants to open up to you and who is still willing to be honest and candid and tell you everything?

Fourthly, it is important for people-to-people exchanges to target the right people. The exchange groups can be roughly divided into three types: the first type include those who understand you and are friendly with you. This type is in the minority; the second type refers to those who know little about

you and have misunderstanding about you. This is in the majority; the third type are those who know little about you and are prejudiced against you. It is also a minority type. It is easier to communicate with the first type. It takes a lot of efforts to communicate with the second, and it is relatively difficult to communicate with the third. Many of us are more willing to communicate with the first type because it is efficient and effective, and we often try to avoid the second type; as to the third type, we tend to ignore them because it is often difficult to find common ground. This is obviously a big misunderstanding of people-to-people exchanges. Not only do we have to communicate with the first type of people, we should also communicate more with the second type, in an effort to find common understanding and build mutual respect and friendship. As for the third type, we should never give up. Over the course of time, greater sharing of culture and experience may assist in removing negative prejudices. Sincerity is the key to success. Only in this way will people-to-people exchanges produce desired results.

Fifthly, while telling our own story, we also have to listen to other people's stories in people-to-people exchanges. In communication, it is inherently easier to tell one's own stories, but we often lose interest in other people's stories and culture, which is another factor effecting the success of people-to-people exchanges. People-to-people exchanges represent a process of mutual learning as well as an opportunity to draw lessons from each other. Sometimes a foot may prove short while an inch may prove long. Everyone has strengths and weaknesses. Through other's faults, wise men correct their own mistakes. We should learn from the strengths of others, and make up for our own shortness, so why not choose the right path and learn from it? The lesson of others can turn into our experience, so why not choose the wrong path and correct it? The truth behind is well known to both old and young! The key to unlocking this potential is to put knowledge into practice.

Sixthly, the form of exchanges matters. The form of exchange is the way and means of communication. Well chosen forms of communication exchanges, can lead to fewer exchanges being needed. Tea-tasting, chess, music, calligraphy, wine-tasting, and poetry can all be means of communication. President Xi Jinping has set an example for us in this regard by holding night talks in Yingtai, having long talks by the West Lake, and taking a walk around the East Lake with his participants.

I believe that most of you here have rich experience as well as personal feelings about people-to-people exchanges. What I said is just some of my personal views developed in the course of my career. I hope this can serve as a trigger so that you may come up with more valuable opinions!

Ethical Challenges Brought by Cutting-edge Science

PU Muming

Director of the Institute of Neuroscience, Chinese Academy of Sciences

I am very pleased to participate in Taihe Civilizations Forum. Today I want to talk about some ethical challenges brought by cutting-edge technologies. Some participants have already talked about problems brought about by the technological development, including some ethical issues we are facing now. This is a big topic and I want to narrow it down to the topic of ethical challenges brought by cutting-edge technologies, which is close to the field of my expertise.

First, let's talk about the problems we are facing in the scientific community---the social pressure brought about by diseases. According to a WHO report, the greatest social pressure comes from mental and neurological diseases, accounting for 28%, followed by cardiovascular disease and cancer. Although there are solutions for most diseases, there are still no effective solutions for brain and mental diseases.

This is pathologically caused by the following four aspects:

Firstly, the brain is a very complex organ. Thus, it is very difficult for a neuroscientist to identify which part of the brain is not functioning correctly.

Secondly, the brain functions via neural circuits; however, all neural circuits are composed of similar cells. Drugs are often ineffective in treating mental diseases, due to their high rate of failure and inability to specifically treat the cause of the disease.

Thirdly, the development of new drugs is a very slow process and fails frequently. For example, among new drug research and development projects, even with billions of yuan invested by pharmaceutical companies, 90% will fail. At the present, there are no drugs to cure depression, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease, which can currently only be delayed and controlled.

Fourthly, animal models, especially preclinical drug testing models, have not yet been established, which also contributes to the failure of drug development efforts. As a general rule, we will conduct experiments on animals before launching a new drug. Some pharmaceutical companies will use mice to develop and test the effect of new drugs on the metabolic mechanism or pharmacokinetics. But mice and humans have a large genetic difference. Thus, it is urgent to find a suitable primate (such as monkeys) to conduct research on brain and mental diseases in humans. These problems have been troubling us over the past few years and have propelled us to design a non-human primate test model a few years ago.

Why do we have to use primates for testing? This is because primate neurons are very similar to those of humans. The brain neurons of mice are basically the same, with little variance between an individual and a group. Dissimilarly, the brain neurons of primates and humans, function uniquely for each individual, thus determining the efficacy of the drugs taken. For this reason, monkeys can be used by pharmaceutical companies for efficacy testing. For the use of monkeys as a population for drug efficacy testing, we established a standardized testing mechanism five years ago, the details of

which will not, however, be discussed here.

I will introduce two little monkeys in the video clip that we cloned using somatic cells for the first time. These two little monkeys are twins, and their gene expressions in the nucleus are the same. They are all from the cultured cells of the nucleus and have identical cellular genes. As the cell eggs belong to different species of animals, they contain different genes. This marked the success of our cloning.

The international community is very excited about our findings, and many reports hail such genetic practices as revolutionary and helpful in changing the future of biomedical science. But it also raises concerns of whether this is a slippery slope towards human cloning. Many news reports (such as the Daily Telegraph and the New York Times) put our findings on their headlines, claiming that we are facing a profound ethical challenge moving forward. Monkey cloning has been successful; does this mean human cloning is on the horizon?

Today, I want to talk about the significance of monkey cloning. First, to ensure that the monkeys cloned have the same genetic background, we have learned about human biology and related diseases and drug development. We have cultured a monkey's cells in test tubes and transferred them to the monkey's body. The monkey's genes have been edited, and human defects such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease have been genetically inserted. This has proved to be an effective method in making it possible for our team to scientifically test the drugs and treat the diseases. Our success indicates that long-standing obstacles to primate cloning have been completely overcome, and human cloning is presently technically feasible. This, however, brings with it a lot of ethical issues as we discussed many years ago when the first cloned sheep Dolly surfaced. In 2005, the United Nations passed a Declaration on Human Cloning to call upon member states to prohibit all forms of human cloning that are considered incompatible with human dignity. Shortly after, 46 countries signed the resolution to prohibit their own country from undertaking human cloning.

Naturally, primate cloning poses huge ethical concerns and challenges. However, there are also other

technical challenges, including the neural technology. With the advancement of technology, we now have the capacity to monitor the human brain, know what the brain is doing, what a person is thinking and even control the brain by regulating brain activities. We can also develop drugs that will not only control diseases, but also enhance the functions of the brain to make us smarter.

In fact, many pharmaceutical companies are now developing drugs that can enhance human's cognitive function, which has made it possible for drugs to manipulate the human brain. Much consideration must be given to certain questions, such as; to what extent the human brain should be regulated, and who will buy such drugs to control their brain. If such drugs only become affordable to the wealthy, when they achieve heightened cognitive function, it will further exacerbate social disparities. Therefore, our advancements in neuroscience also faces many ethical issues.

There are also other issues, such as how to genetically edit embryos, what kind of gene therapy can be used for Down's syndrome, whether the problematic gene or chromosome can be replaced to ensure children will not be inflicted with Down's syndrome and whether such approaches are in line with our ethics. We have not yet reached consensus on these ethical considerations, nor do we even know whether we can really achieve them. However, these issues are extensively discussed in the scientific community and the whole of society. With regards to stem cells and regenerative drugs, stem cell therapy can treat many diseases by, amongst many other methods, replacing the problematic tissues in the brain. This has been tested on animal models, but what it can do on humans is still unknown, although currently, the transplantation of tissue and organs also raises ethical concerns.

Artificial intelligence is a buzz word today, and is closely related to data privacy protection. Although, there are other ethical issues brought by these cutting-edge technologies, such as what kind of robot we should produce, whether artificial intelligence will replace human labor or humans entirely. It is imperative that the international community address such issues.

Is it possible for us to reach a consensus on the ethical issues? We need to strike a balance, especially a balance between the pursuit of cutting-edge technologies and that of social needs. Throughout the history of mankind, cutting-edge technologies have greatly assisted the development of human society. For example, we have discovered the chemical reaction in atomic and nuclear power generation. This technology however, whilst it has a positive application in nuclear power generation, also has a negative application in the production of atomic bombs. A lot of cutting-edge technologies have greatly affected our life. Unfortunately, our ethical standards in some fields are not well developed. This is evident in our action on nuclear weapons. Since the 1950s we have been calling for the prohibition of nuclear weapons, however they still exist today. As for the genetic engineering, we have been saying since the 1970s that we should be very careful, that we should not edit genes. Scientists later held an important meeting in California and decided our ethical standards—they concluded that we may choose a bacterium to conduct genetic engineering, although we should never let the modified bacterium leave the lab. As we have reached international

consensus on many standards, which have been quickly agreed upon by many government agencies. Consequently, in the past 50-70 years no serious problem have occurred. When a new cutting-edge technology emerges, we should develop a corresponding Code of Conduct. To achieve this, it is necessary for the entire scientific community and the whole of society to reach a consensus on how to act.

Another issue, concerns universal human values, cultural and religious elements, as well as conflicts and contrasts between them. Do we truly have universal human values? Most of the ethical codes generally and those that govern cutting-edge technologies are formulated by developed countries in the west, such as the United States or some European countries, where most of the cutting-edge technologies were developed. The ethical codes are mainly controlled by Western scientists. How should we better listen to the voice of developing countries? If one of our findings is very useful for a developing country that has completely different needs or cultural background, should we listen to its voices? How can we ensure that such ethical codes are also acceptable to the rest of the international community? Can we really establish such universal codes of ethics? I personally believe that there are universal ethical codes. For example, I believe we should treat animals in a humane way, either for biological research or medical development. This is, I believe, a universal ethical code.

There are also other issues. For example, can we formulate some secondary religion or culture-specific ethical codes? In the United States, abortion is permitted in some states while it is prohibited in some other states. Is this related to religious or cultural elements?

We have different ethical codes available. Above these specific codes, we should have greater universal ethical codes. We need to discuss it when considering the ethical issues that come with cutting-edge technologies. I hope that we will have time to seriously discuss the issue at Taihe Civilizations Forum, and I am very happy to see this topic appear on our agenda.

Challenges Faced by Sustainable Development

Thorsten Jelinek

Director of Taihe Institute Europe Center

Excellencies and colleagues, good afternoon! Tomorrow, at the sub-session on sustainable development, I will have an opportunity to give a speech following the former Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Today I would like to take this opportunity to talk about some of the pressing issues facing sustainable development and climate change.

It is fair to say that the Paris Agreement is an historic agreement, as almost all member countries agreed to abandon their political and cultural differences and to take collective actions. Such consensus is a very rare case in the current era, full of uncertainties and geopolitical changes, and it has become a rare behavior in the multipolar world.

This year's temperature is likely to exceed the temperature of the five hottest years on record, making it the hottest year in history, with the hottest five years just coming in the past decade. This year we have seen more extreme disasters, mountain fires, heat waves, droughts, floods, and the proportion

of high-temperature days has reached 10%, compared with 1% fifty years ago. From a scientific point of view, in terms of global warming, we cannot achieve the goal of keeping a temperature that is only 2°C higher than the temperature before the industrial revolution. As the surface temperature of the Earth has already increased by 1.2°C, we will not reach the goal set out in the Paris Agreement by the end of this century. The continued warming of the Earth will trigger more extreme natural disasters, destroy infrastructure, threaten people's welfare, security and further exacerbate distress and poverty. The costs and negative effects brought by environmental degradation, rapid economic development and some human factors will have a huge impact on the entire world. Even if human-produced carbon dioxide emissions will decline further in the next few decades, the greenhouse effect will continue, and the carbon dioxide level will keep rising, resulting in constantly increasing temperatures. This is mainly because the natural carbon reserves, such as oceans, forests and frozen soils, will continue to release the carbon dioxide.

According to a report in 2017, 1.7 Earths' worth of resources are needed to support the global demands of the year. In 2012, the New Economic Foundation of British Think Tank proposed the concept of "Earth Overshoot Day". According to the estimates, in December 1970, the humanity's total yearly consumption started to surpass the biocapacity of the Earth, and the date when humanity as a whole has used up the resources needed to live sustainably for a year fell on August 2017. We will continue to release more carbon dioxide, which cannot be completely absorbed by natural ecosystems. In addition, there are a great deal of resource exploitations and pollutions currently occurring.

This is not an issue about being pessimistic or optimistic. We should act immediately to cope with climate change and promote sustainable development, which requires more coordination and implementation on a global scale. The Paris Agreement is the best example. Governments, enterprises and civil society have responded positively to climate change. In 2018 Germany saw for the first time the continuous power generation of up to 10 hours, by relying entirely on renewable energy, and the UK will completely eliminate coal-fired power generation in the same year. Although the United States has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement, we can still see the progress made by

various states and cities in the United States in addressing climate change. At the same time, India has committed to investing billions of dollars in an attempt to become a superpower of renewable energy by 2030. Today, in this picturesque suburb of Beijing, I would like to say this is the perfect time for us to talk about the progress made by China in these areas. China has emerged as a leader in sustainable development and renewable energy. Its investment in renewable energy has surpassed that of any other country and the power of China's environmental protection department has grown in capacity. The Chinese government has realized that the sustainable development needs driven by the use and development of renewable energy, with water, air and soil pollution becoming important factors influencing China's reform and sustainable development drive. To pursue further development in the future, China needs to reduce energy consumption and pollution resulting from resource consumption. The next stage of China's urbanization and industrialization can no longer be completed by simply copying the model used over the past 40 years.

We should not forget the Belt and Road Initiative either. The Belt and Road Initiative involves the world's largest infrastructure construction, solid waste treatment and carbon dioxide emission, etc. Many coastal cities in South China are now suffering from typhoons, and many more are suffering from hot weather. Although all actions targeting climate change have been implemented and we can see the blue sky more often in Beijing, the quantity of carbon dioxide emissions still reached a record high and is expected to climb further in the next 10 years, with the expected concentration being up to 410PPM, which is the highest in history. Although great progress has been achieved in the circular economy, renewable energy, electrification, smart cities, carbon finance and carbon pricing mechanisms, most economies are still subject to non-sustainable power generation, production, processing and consumption. The renewable energy is gaining popularity, but the global coal demand is also growing.

These pose urgent threats that need to be addressed as soon as possible. At the same time, we should also ask ourselves two questions: how does climate change end up like this and why we can not deal with climate change in a more efficient manner. In my opinion, there are two reasons for this:

Firstly, climate change is a complex issue. There is not any historical experience for reference and our traditional knowledge seems to be useless in this respect, which renders us unable or unwilling to think about it. Slowly, individuals and society become numb to it, and even deliberately neglect it, assuming that they do not have to think about it and that they are unable to find a solution. Perhaps we have accepted the concept of "human subjectivism", and believe that climate change is irrelevant to us and that it is too difficult to change. But in fact, climate change is closely human-related, and the crisis triggered by it will affect the entire mankind, although many might think the threat is too far away. Culturally, we like to imagine the horrible consequence of climate change. This is why Hollywood has produced so many doomsday movies. We imagine the end of mankind, but are unwilling to work harder to reduce the harm of climate change and to build more flexible strategies and mechanisms. Few people are willing to seriously think about climate change. Many are just skeptical or doing nothing about it. They are keen on pursuing power and advancing their social standing, rather than figuring out the facts and truth of climate change.

Second, it is related to the political, national and economic interests and the scarcity of resources. The prosperity of mankind is built on this traditional economic framework, which mainly consists of fossil fuel and is closely related to economic activities that will inevitably consume tremendous resources. Modern civilization still retains the traditional linear economic model---demand, production, consumption and disposal. Economic activities are most closely linked with energy, but facts show such a system has resulted in imbalanced global development, increased volatility and aggravated inequality. The rise of protectionism and populism has increased the pressure of geopolitics, which will only further exacerbate the structural inertia of economic development.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the face of such a threat that will likely bring an end to human civilization, we should reflect deeply on the role and function of modern civilization and find a new model of development that will detach the economic development from fossil fuel, environmental pollution and waste generation. This is also an important step in the development of modern civilization. It requires us to transform our technology and economic system to carbon-free ones and to adopt political actions based on common values.

Adam Smith once said that egoism is the driving force behind economic development, but he also stressed at the same time, that excessive consumption and not advantaging society with fruits of economic development will cause greater harms. It is a pity that liberalism is more concerned with self-interest rather than serving society. Confucius, a famous thinker in Chinese history, also mentioned that people are the cornerstone of a good society. Let us work together to build common values that are society-serving and future-oriented, and establish a harmonious relationship between human and nature. These are goals worthy of our efforts, and the pursuit of Taihe Civilizations Forum.

Topics of Sub-sessions and Introductions of Participants

Sub-session on People-to-people Exchange

Topic 1: new paradigm for cultural exchanges between China and the world

Nathaniel Ahrens

Executive Director of the American Mandarin Society

Irina Bokova

Senior Fellow of Taihe Institute, former Director-General of UNESCO

CHEN Dali

Director of the Division of American and Oceanian Affairs

CHEN Zheng

Researcher of Taihe Institute, Executive Director of APEC Research Center, Beijing Foreign Studies Univeristy
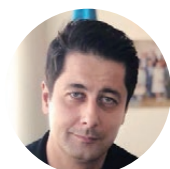
John Holden

President & CEO of the US-China Strong Foundation

LI Chaoming

Senior Researcher of Taihe Institute, Researcher of Public Policy and Governance Research Institute at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics

Rovshan Muradov

Secretary General of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center

Dzhoomart Otorbaev

Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan

Stephen Orlins

President of the National Committee on US-China Relations

Abe Radkin

Chief Executive of the Global Hope Coalition

Robert Xiao

CEO of Perfect World Investment & Holding Group

ZHAI Kun

Senior Researcher of Taihe Institute, Professor of Peking University, Director of ASEAN Countries Research Center of Peking University

Topic 2: mutual learning among human civilizations and common value building

William Billows

Project Editor of the "Culture Report EUNIC-Year Book"

CUI Liru

Senior Researcher of Taihe Institute, Former President of China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations

CHEN Liangzi

Senior Researcher of Taihe Institute, Former Deputy of the Secretariat of Central Prevention Office

PENG Jianming

Deputy Editor-in-Chief and Senior Editor at CCTV

QIAO Weibing

Editor-in-Chief of CITIC Publishing Group

XIAO Gongqin

Professor of History Department at the College of Humanities and Communications at Shanghai Normal University

SHI Huigu

Researcher of Taihe Institute,
Malaysian Buddhist

YI Jianhong

Vice President of Kunming University
of Science and Technology

YUAN Ming

Dean of Yenching Academy at
Peking University, and Professor at
the School of International Studies
at Peking University

YU Nina

Art Critic

Topic 3: Belt and Road Initiative and "a human community with a shared destiny"

GUO Changlin

Senior Researcher of Taihe Institute

JIN Canrong

Professor and Associate Dean at School of International Studies, Renmin University of China

JIN Xu

Senior Researcher of Taihe Institute, Former Minister-counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in the UK

Mohamed Sameh Amr

Professor of International Law Department at Cairo University, Former Chairman of Executive Board of UNESCO

YU Hongjun

Senior Researcher of Taihe Institute, Fromer Vice Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee

WU Yihong

Senior Researcher of Taihe Institute, Former Director, Chief Editor and Secretary of Party Leadership Group of Xinhua News Agency Middle East Bureau

Sub-session on Sustainable Development

Topic 1: Structural Obstacles to Sustainable Development

Marie Chatardová

Former President of the Economic and Social Council at United Nation. Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nation

Jan Fischer

Former Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

HOU Jiaru

Senior Researcher of Taihe Institute, Dean of Institute of Green Development Strategies, China University of Political Science and Law

Zlatko Lagumdzija

Former Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Topic 2: Green Technology and Industries

HUANG Yue

Aviation Environment Manager of IATA

Mats Karlsson

Director of the Swedish Institute of International Affairs

ZHOU Jie

Vice-Director-General of the International Forum for Clean Energy (Macao)

WEN Zongguo

Professor and Doctorial Tutor at Environment School of Tsinghua University. Secretary- General of Ecological Civilization Research Center at Tsinghua University

Topic 3: China's New Role in Global Sustainable Development

LI Junfeng

Director of Academic Committee at National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation(NCSC)

LIN Yongsheng

Researcher of Taihe Institute, Institute of Economic and Resource Management, Beijing Normal Univeristy

YU Hongyuan

Professor and Director of Institute for Comparative Politics and Public Policy at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies

ZHOU Guomei

Deputy Director and Researcher of Environmental Protection Department of the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center

ZHANG Haibin

Professor of the School of International Studies and the Director of the Center for International Organization Studies of Peking University

ZHOU Kai

Executive Director of China Energy Conservation and Emission Reduction Industry Fund Management Committee

Sub-session on Advanced Technologies

Amir Dossal

Founder and President of the Global Partnerships Forum

DING Yifan

Senior Researcher of Taihe Institute, Former Permanent Vice Director of World Development Institute of Development Research Center of the State Council

FEI Lianghong

Chief Advisor of Cloud Computing Technology at AWS

Annabel Lin

Country Director of Google China

MENG Tianguang

Executive Director of Computational Social Science Platform at Tsinghua University

Jordan Shapiro

Senior Fellow of the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop

SHEN Xiaowei

Vice President of IBM, Director of IBM Research - PRC, Chief Technology Officer of IBM Greater PRC

WANG Guangxi

Managing Director of Lenovo Capital

SUN Qiang

Professor and Director of the Non-Human Primate Facility of Institute of Neuroscience at Chinese Academy of Sciences

YIN Ye

CEO of BGI Genomics Co., Ltd

ZHANG Jianwei

Professor and Director of Technical Aspects of Multimodal Systems(TAMS), Department of Informatics, University of Hamburg, Germany

ZHANG Lei

Senior Researcher of Taihe Institute, CEO of Cheche Finance Technology Co., Ltd

ZHU Yunhan

Professor at Department of Political Science at National Taiwan University

Summary of Viewpoints at the Sub-Sessions

Sub-session on People-to-people Exchange

Introduction: At the 2nd Taihe Civilizations Forum---Sub-session on People-to-people Exchange, participants conducted thorough discussions on three topics: new paradigm for cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries, mutual learning among human civilizations and common value building, the Belt and Road Initiative and "a human community with a shared destiny". The main viewpoints of participants at home and abroad are summarized as follows:

1. China needs to strengthen efforts in four aspects to promote international cultural communication

In the new era, China should, while keeping the balance between general diplomacy, internal publicity and absorption of outstanding cultural achievements of mankind, strengthen efforts in the following four aspects to promote international cultural communication.

Diversified players. Under the new situation that China is opening up to the outside world in an all-round way, players in international cultural exchange and communication should be diversified. The "going out" enterprises, non-governmental organizations, citizens and overseas Chinese are all playing a leading role in international cultural communication. The government needs to strengthen efforts to combine all possible forces and introduce guiding policies and to provide necessary technical and financial support to all players.

Diversified contents. The traditional Chinese cultural symbols such as the Great Wall, Kung Fu, food and ancient architecture are insufficient to objectively and comprehensively present the image of Chinese culture to the outside world. To spread Chinese traditional culture is important, but it is even more important to promote Chinese modern culture. The communication of diversified modern culture to the outside world will help eliminate the "China threat theory" and the misunderstanding of China.

Modernized communication technologies. We should, on one hand, keep pace with the development of international cultural communication, as well as accept and try with an open mind, the latest cultural product design and communication concepts. On the other hand, we should explore new cultural communication technologies based on advanced experiences learnt from foreign countries, to lead the trend in this respect.

Localized approaches. The international cultural communication should be conducted by taking into account the foreign social and market environments, the characteristics of the audience, the laws, regulations and customs of the receiving country. At the same time, localized approaches should be used to avoid being misunderstood as cultural infiltration, cultural expansion and even labeled as cultural colonization and cultural aggression.

2. New means for cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries

The Internet may be used as an innovative means of communication. In the Internet era, social media has become an important platform for multicultural exchange and mutual learning. For example, online language teaching not only creates business value, but also serves as a means for enhancing cultural exchange. More technology products and business models may be developed based on the Internet to promote cultural exchange between people, which are important supplements to traditional cultural exchanges.

The exchanges and interactions between the youth should be strengthened. The youth are the future of the country and the world. The Chinese government should hold a long-term picture in mind by strengthening policy support and setting up a special fund to encourage Chinese and foreign

non-governmental forces to actively participate in and organize various forms of youth exchange programs. This will further expand the vision of the Chinese youth and allow the foreign youth to better understand China's culture, history, social system and future development prospects.

Commercial means may be used to promote cultural communication. Commerce plays a vital role in cultural exchanges, which is best exemplified by the American film industry. China should establish its own model for communication of cultural products: (1) There must be a core concept, that is, the core value carried by cultural products; (2) The stories, symbols, images and visual effects must be attractive; (3) The products should be well-made and be able to adapt to different markets around the world; (4)Through the commercialization of the cultural industry, we can reach a mutually beneficial outcome for both the distributing brand/company and China's culture becoming more internationally recognized.

The bridging role of the book publishing industry should be given full play. The rapid development of the Internet, big data, artificial intelligence and blockchain has brought about tremendous changes in cultural communication. The emergence of e-books and audio books, the popularity of audio and video products and the development of translation technology have greatly enriched the channels and means for cultural exchanges. China's book publishing industry should speed up its transformation and upgrade from a traditional market to a knowledge-based service market, further expand the scale of the industry and explore the international market. So as to play a greater role in promoting cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries and in shaping the common values of mankind.

3. Sino-US strategic mutual trust has entered a long reconstruction phase

Firstly, the political mutual trust at the leadership level faces new challenges. The power of China is rising rapidly and both countries are experiencing dramatic changes in political, economic and social areas, which will greatly affect the top leaders of two countries in taking diplomatic approaches and how they view and introduce policies against each other.

Secondly, the views of the US elites on Sino-US mutual trust have changed significantly. Before Trump took office, there was a prevailing view among the US elite diplomats that Sino-US strategic

mutual trust needed to be reconstructed. Before a new strategic consensus is reached, competition will dominate the bilateral relationship between the two countries, and Sino-US mutual trust will become increasingly fragile.

Thirdly, the non-governmental exchanges between China and the United State have a solid foundation. Through the development of more than 40 years of in-depth non-governmental exchanges that have taken place between China and the United States. This will play a positive role in the reconstruction of Sino-US mutual trust in the long run, but a limited role under the current conditions. It should be particularly noted that the reduced mutual trust between China and the United States has disrupted people to people exchanges between the two countries.

China and the United States currently have no common threats like the Soviet Union during the Cold War, and the weight of the "ballast" of foreign trade has also plummeted due to trade friction. It is wise not to have so many unrealistic expectations for Sino-US relations. At the same time, neither China nor the United States should give up or even obstruct and interfere with the communication between the two countries, to avoid possible strategic misjudgment that will bring up conflicts or even historical tragedies. We should remain confident and resilient in handling the future China-U.S. relations as the times change. Against the backdrop of globalization, the common interests between the two countries will still outweigh the differences.

4. Thoughts on the Belt and Road Initiative and "five connectivity indexes"

It is imperative for China to strengthen the financial integration, infrastructure connectivity and cooperation with underdeveloped and less developed countries along the route in carrying out the Belt and Road Initiative. According to the indexes in relation to the "five connectivity indexes" and the research results, the following conclusions can be drawn:

First, the "five connectivity indexes" is well implemented on the whole, with the mean value of indexes at 55 points among the 94 countries along the route. This result is neither as good as the domestic media stated, nor as bad as the foreign media stated, indicating that there is still large room for improvement in the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative. Second, from a comprehensive

perspective, the index of "unimpeded trade" ranks first, followed by the "strengthened people-to-people ties" and "policy coordination" successively. The "financial integration" and "infrastructure connectivity" have lower ranks. This shows that it is very difficult to integrate funds during the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative. Although China has been vigorously promoting and participating in the infrastructure construction along the "Belt and Road", it is actually not enough. Third, the indexes in relation to the "five connectivity indexes" between China and the underdeveloped and less developed countries along the "Belt and Road" were very high, but were lowered after the developed countries in Europe and Oceania signed an agreement with China, mainly because the developed countries have a good foundation in these areas. This also shows that the cooperation between China and underdeveloped and less developed countries needs to be further strengthened.

China needs to further strengthen its ability to promote its image in Arab countries. The Middle East is an important area for implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative and is also a key area for strengthening people-to-people ties. Although China's soft power in the Middle East has been enhanced significantly in recent years, there are still many aspects that need to be further improved: (1) The Chinese media used to publicize China as a fixed and clear image, but this is not fully accepted by the target audience; (2) People in Arab countries are more familiar with English than with Chinese, which brings a challenge to China in seeking to enhance its soft power through education and language projects; (3) The social cognitive deficit between China and Arab countries is still prominent; (4) The cultural fault, "China threat theory" and Islamophobia, among others, caused by extremist forces constitute interference to Sino-Arab cultural exchanges and cooperation; (5) China has not attached sufficient importance to the competitive and shaping functions of public diplomacy, and lacked self-confidence and initiative; (6) Little efforts have been made to track and study the religious information published through social media in Middle Eastern countries.

To this end, China should first, for the purpose of discourse construction, propose guiding, constructive perspective, ideas and programs by organically linking the important issues in the Middle East, national development and governance with the Belt and Road Initiative , and should strengthen the study of Islamic culture and religion as well as paying attention to the social development of Arab countries in the Middle East, so as to formulate more targeted outreach strategies. Third, the religious exchanges between China and the Arab countries should be strengthened to enhance Arab countries' understanding of Chinese Islam.

Sub-session on Sustainable Development

Introduction: At the 2nd Taihe Civilizations Forum---Sub-session on Sustainable Development, experts in political, business and academic circles from all over the world shared ideas and wisdom on innovation and cooperation based on common values to cope with climate change and to explore effective approaches to achieving the global goals of sustainable development in 2030. The important viewpoints of the participating experts are summarized as follows:

I. Prospects and challenges for global sustainable development

The course of global sustainable development is still full of challenges and uncertainties. Although the world has made significant progress in addressing sustainable development, such as climate change, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere is still rising. There are many challenges in dealing with climate change, and some of them are irreversible. The prospects for sustainable development remain uncertain.

Imbalance and inequality are prevailing in today's world. To implement the UNs' sustainable development goals is a complex and challenging task. The key to achieving sustainable development lies in the balance between economic development, social development and environmental ecology. However, the imbalance and inequality are observed between developed and developing countries,

as well as between superpowers and small countries in today's world.

We should remain optimistic about achieving the UN's sustainable development goals. Currently, there is still a big distance from the 2030 UN's sustainable development goals, for instance, people living in extreme poverty in the world account for 1/3 of the number in 1990 and 11% of the world population are living below the basic poverty line. As to whether we can achieve the 2030 sustainable development agenda and sustainable development goals, experts give out their opinions, which may be summarized by a famous saying of Michelangelo---"the biggest risk does not lie in the goal that is too high to be achievable, but the goal that is too low and achieved".

2. Paths and actions to achieve the global sustainable development goals

Sustainable development goals are set for the following six aspects: (1) Education and inclusive employment; (2) Health and human well-being; (3) Clean energy; (4) Water resources and natural resources; (5) Transportation; (6) E-government and digital economy.

All member countries need to prioritize sustainable development. Sustainable development relates to the shared destiny of mankind. Whether the 2030 UN's sustainable development goals can be achieved relies heavily on people's understanding, ideas and mechanisms, rather than their capacity, technology and money. Sustainable development is only achievable by countries when they make climate change as an investment priority and allocate sufficient funds for it, rather than investing in other areas, such as of nation security and arms manufacturing.

The rule of law and global civic awareness should be strengthened. Sustainable development involves all aspects of life. To achieve this, it is necessary to study two important areas: one is the rule of law. It is necessary to establish a universal rule of law, dedicated to match the sustainable development goals of the nation. So as to prevent inaction or misconduct of the government. The other is global civic awareness. The concept of sustainable development should not be restricted to the government, academic and business circles only; it should be made known to citizens. This is even more important. If each citizen can protect the environment, reduce emissions and reduce energy demand, it will be much easier to achieve sustainable development.

Research on the quantitative measurement of sustainable development goals should be intensified. Measurement of sustainable development is very important. What is sustainable development? How to define and monitor its implementation? This requires the active participation of stakeholders, international agencies, governments and NGOs and the use of scientific methods to quantify progress towards sustainable development goals so as to measure our current achievements.

The financing issue in the implementation of sustainable development goals should be addressed. There must be sufficient sources of fund for achieving sustainable development goals. According to UNCTAD, the world needs 5-7 trillion dollars each year to achieve sustainable development goals, but in 2016, the global official development assistance only provided 142 million dollars, of which 65% went to the developing countries. New financing channels and methods should be explored to raise funds worldwide to support sustainable development goals, such as strengthening domestic resource mobilization, creating an environment and mechanisms for utilization of private investment, and promoting cooperation between different mechanisms.

Whether the world is developing toward the UN's sustainable development goals should be viewed from a geopolitical perspective. All countries and governments have devised various policies to support sustainable development. We should view whether the world is developing on the right track toward the sustainable development goals and what are the roles played by the United Nations, the Bretton Woods System and some international financial institutions. Further, what are the roles of governments and top leaders from a geopolitical perspective?

A shared, inclusive society and a global regulatory system should be established. To achieve the 2030 sustainable development goals, we must establish a shared, inclusive society to achieve environmental sustainability. We must also incorporate society, the economy and the environment into national policies to seek a balance between people, environmental production and profit, and create a shared society and environment. In order to achieve these ideals, a global regulatory system should be established. For example, China may, together with the United States and the European Union, create a leading system for the global sustainable development model in the new millennium, and gradually scale out individual pilot programs to full-scale global operation, to promote the sustainable development worldwide.

Emphasis should be placed on the positive role of technological innovation and industrial development in dealing with global climate change and sustainable development. We should continue to use cutting-edge technologies to help achieve the sustainable development goals while reducing their negative impacts. Energy technology innovation plays a vital role in addressing climate change and achieving the 2030 UN's sustainable development goals. Whether the emission reduction target as set out in the Paris Agreement can be met depends on whether people can develop disruptive technologies to cope with global climate change. Whoever owns the advanced energy technology is going to control the world's future resources. Great importance should also be attached to the positive role of industrial development. For example, the international aviation industry has made great contribution to the world economy, which is conducive to achieving the 2030 UN's sustainable development goals. The use of clean energy and renewable energy in the aerospace industry can significantly reduce emissions in the aerospace sector.

The achievement of sustainable development by all countries is a prerequisite for achieving the UN's sustainable development goals. Climate change is an important component of sustainable development. During negotiations over global climate change in the past two or three decades, all parties have been emphasizing the separation of responsibilities, which is out of line with sustainable development. To achieve sustainable development on the global scale, each country should first achieve its own sustainable development, without expecting help from any other country, then conduct extensive cooperation with other countries.

We should pay attention to the role of government and public opinions of sustainable development. The 2030 sustainable development agenda involves not only the government, the academic circle and the NGOs, but also ordinary people. The promotion of such involvement may be carried out in the simplest form, such as discussing the sustainable development goals in public debates, educating the public on how sustainable development will change our production and life, and using real examples to show how we define and promote sustainable development. Achieving the 2030 sustainable development goals requires the international communities to make joint efforts and to share experiences with each other.

Achieving the UN's sustainable development goals requires the active participation of all stakeholders.

In the process of sustainable development, it is inevitable to have conflicts between the sustainable development and the political aims of countries. To push forward with efforts to ensure the achievement of the UN's sustainable development goals, we must give full autonomy to the role of social elites and the general public. It is currently imperative for all stakeholders to act immediately in a more coordinated manner. The creation of an external environment on the global scale that is conducive to achieving the UN's sustainable development goals requires the active participation of all stakeholders, including; the business community, civil society, the academic circle, governments and individuals, especially young people.

The concept of building "a human community with a shared destiny" should be the underlying principle for negotiations over the International Climate Convention. The two important theoretical bases for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change are the "common concern of mankind" and the "principle of common but differentiated responsibilities". Climate issues and other global issues are actually issues of responsibility. We only have one Earth, and we have no choice. We are dealing with climate change and promoting sustainable development for the shared future of mankind. It is necessary to shift our focus from the common concern of mankind to building "a human community with a shared destiny" and use it as the underlying principle for negotiations for the International Climate Convention.

3. China's new role in global climate change and sustainable development

China is playing a new role as a "leader" in global sustainable development. Compared with the United States which has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement, China is unswervingly implementing the Paris Agreement, guiding international cooperation on climate change, and promoting the establishment of a fair and rational system of international climate governance. It can be said that China is playing a leading role in global sustainable development. The "leading" here mainly has four meanings: (1) It does not mean to dominate or to fill the place left by the United States, or to assume the responsibility of leading the global climate governance alone; (2) It does not mean that China has transformed from a developing country to a developed country. China is still a developing country; (3) The leading is mainly reflected in the fields of concept and action, namely, the concept of ecological

civilization, and actions of domestic green and low carbon development; (4) China should strengthen its global leadership.

Building a green "Belt and Road" will help achieve the global sustainable development goals. The green "Belt and Road" is consistent with and closely related to the 2030 UN's sustainable development goals. The "five-pronged approach" highlighted by the "Belt and Road" are compatible with some of the UN's sustainable development goals. Building of a green "Belt and Road" requires the support of the following: (1) Top-level designs, such as systems and policies; (2) Green technology innovation and advanced technology, which is the vehicle for building a green "Belt and Road"; (3) The communication and promotion of green standards, which are higher than the environmental standards and are the rigid restriction imposed on the green "Belt and Road"; (4) A green industry chain, supply chain and value chain, which will provide industrial support for the green "Belt and Road"; (5) Green projects, which are the cornerstone for the green "Belt and Road".

Advanced technologies should be applied to build green, people-oriented infrastructure. Construction of large-scale infrastructure are important content of the Belt and Road Initiative, but they will consume huge resources, thus putting tremendous pressure on the environment. Existing advanced technologies should be employed to build green, people-oriented and sustainable infrastructure and the creativity and initiative of designers and engineers should be given full autonomy. China, after years of development, is expected to make breakthrough innovations and progress in the coal chemical industry, thermal power generation, garbage disposal, and other ecological and environmental protection fields.

Green industry has become a pillar industry for China's economic and social development. China's green industry has evolved from the so-called "strategic emerging industry" to a "pillar industry". According to the official statistics, the output value of China's green industry in 2016 is about 4.5 trillion yuan, representing about 5% of the GDP of that year, as opposed to the international mean value of about 4% to 5%. However, only about 45% of the environmental technologies have been applied to the industrial production, as opposed to the level of about 69% in advanced countries. On the whole, China's environmental technologies are 8-10 years behind that of the advanced

countries, but this gap is narrowing, largely due to the stricter environmental laws and intensified law enforcement, which has greatly promoted the development of the green industry. Moreover, China's green industry is dominated by small and micro businesses engaged in equipment manufacturing in developed regions. The percentage of large enterprises with revenue of more than 0.4 billion yuan is only 4.7%, as opposed to the percentage of 68.4% of small and micro businesses, which are mainly engaged in equipment manufacturing, and the integrated service businesses only account for 6%. The small and micro businesses are mainly concentrated in relatively developed regions.

Specific measures to further promote the development of China's green industry include: (1) Improving laws and regulations and related systems. Strict environmental laws, regulations and judicial systems play an important role in fostering and ensuring healthy development of the green industry and in stimulating market demand; (2) Guidance from the government. For example, the guidance from the government in terms of fiscal taxation, credit and financial policies should be combined with market mechanisms to provide a good environment for the development the green industry. (3) Promoting technical innovation. Technological innovation is the key for development of the green industry; (4) Providing comprehensive, from start to finish environmental technologies manufacturing and services. The green industry is developing toward providing comprehensive, whole-process services; (5) Calling for extensive participation of the society. This is an important catalyst for the development of the green industry.

Energy transformation should be vigorously promoted to turn China into a main force for renewable energy investment in the world. China's energy transformation drive mainly includes three aspects: (1) Greatly improving energy efficiency; (2) Promoting clean utilization of traditional fossil fuel; and (3) Vigorously developing green energy. Remarkable results have been achieved in China's green energy sector: China has invested more than 2.9 trillion US dollars in renewable energy since 2004. In 2017, investment in the solar sector globally saw an increase of 18% to 160.8 billion US dollars, accounting for about 57% of the global total investment in renewable energy. China's solar investment grew by 58% to 86.5 billion US dollars, accounting for about 53.8% of the world total. Seen from a global perspective, solar power attracted more than half of the total investment in renewable energies and China's solar investment accounts for a lion's share of the world total. For a country like China that is rich in coal and poor in oil and gas, it is difficult to complete energy transformation within a

short period. A more realistic path is to use gasified energy as a bridge to gradually shift to renewable energy.

Cooperation on resources is needed to promote the Belt and Road Initiative and the global sustainable development. Mineral resources play an important role in the socio-economic development of countries in the world. China is heavily dependent on foreign countries in terms of mineral resources. As the country with highest levels of importing and consumption in the world, it is subject to influence of resources and trade, price fluctuations and geopolitical economy. Most countries along the "Belt and Road" are producers of mineral resources, so there lies a big potential for China to conduct resource cooperation with them, but there are also risks and challenges brought about by domestic politics, laws, nationalism and geopolitical maneuvering of great powers. China should be cautious of and take measures to avoid such risks when conducting sustainable cooperation with countries through resource cooperation.

Chinese civilization will play a unique role in achieving the UN's sustainable development goals. The concepts of complementation, equality, correlation and balance in ecological civilization coincide with the traditional Chinese concepts of unity between man and universe, harmony without uniformity, and are in line with the ecocentrism that has emerged after the industrial revolution. These stated concepts will assist in transforming China into an ecological civilization. The ecological wisdom of Chinese civilization stems from man's intuition and cognition of nature under the special circumstances of a farming civilization, which is essentially different from the modern western civilization that have experienced and passed through the era of industrialization. Many foreign experts believe that western philosophy provides no appropriate resources for the construction of ecological ethics, and that Chinese civilization, among the non-Western intellectual resources, may serve as a good reference.

To achieve 2030 UN's sustainable development goals, experts at the 2nd Taihe Civilizations Forum---Sub-Session on Sustainable Development reached the following consensus: (1) Strengthening education on sustainable development; (2) Calling for active involvement of all stakeholders and immediate actions; (3) Improving laws and regulations and related systems; (4) Maintaining the coherence of policies; (5) Keeping a good relationship between the government and the market

Sub-session on Advanced Technologies

Introduction: At the 2nd Taihe Civilizations Forum---Sub-Seesion on Advanced Technologies, well-known experts and scholars from the political, academic and business circles gathered together to discuss the life science and technology and the latest achievements in artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence discussions can be categorized as: robots, big data and cloud computing, applications and development trends, as well as social ethical issues brought by cutting-edge technologies. The main viewpoints of participants at home and abroad are summarized as follows:

1. Technology is the driving force behind all transformations.

Gaining insight into the future is one of the key attributes to the sustainable development of human society. At the forum, experts and scholars in related fields, through keynote speeches, summit dialogues and on-site exchanges and interactions, introduced the latest developments in the field of life science and technology, artificial intelligence, as well as introducing the latest trends in cutting-edge technologies and their application to the participants. They believe that science and technology are the driving force behind all transformations, and that a new era has arrived.

Artificial intelligence has brought numerous benefits to our daily life. Progress in core technologies of artificial intelligence in recent years, including algorithms and models, extensive application of big

data and quickly rising computing power are key factors driving the rapid development of artificial intelligence. The increasing costs of labor and growing issues of an aging society create rigid demand for artificial intelligence in the fields of manufacturing, transportation, medical care, education, agriculture and people's lives are all entering a new phase of balance.

Artificial intelligence technologies are now applicable to all aspects of human life, and will surely play an important role in achieving the UN's sustainable development goals as well as in addressing poverty, improvements in health and healthcare, education, climate change and development imbalances faced by human beings. The world's top technology companies have increased their investment in research and development of artificial intelligence and these achievements have been used to serve businesses and individuals.

Today is the turning point for artificial intelligence technologies that have a driving force stronger than ever before. In the face of technological changes, many well-performing enterprises have declined and disappeared, and been replaced by new ones. Therefore, today is not an era of "AI First" but an era of "AI Only".

Artificial intelligence needs to be fully integrated with industry and enterprises. Enterprises should determine the entry point of artificial intelligence by taking into account their own expertise, data mining and platforms, among others, and build application scenarios integrating artificial intelligence with industry. Amazon is an example of a company that uses artificial intelligence technologies as the main driving force for their development. It has successfully applied its research results on artificial intelligence during the past 20 years to cloud computing, and gradually developed more versatile application scenarios for artificial intelligence. Today, millions of companies are running their artificial intelligence on their cloud computing. Amazon has rapidly grown from an inconspicuous entrepreneurial enterprise into a successful global company. This shows that artificial intelligence can be applied in industry and business, not just in research. Artificial intelligence can only benefit the whole society after being thoroughly applied by all enterprises.

It is predicted that in the next few years, artificial intelligence will be rapidly integrated into enterprises.

Innovations in artificial intelligence at an enterprise level will be key driver partially replacing human labor, and providing companies with knowledge and data-based decision making support. Open artificial intelligence technologies and platforms will enable everyone to enjoy the benefits of new technologies in a fair, extensive, controllable and sustainable manner.

Gene and cloning technology have become important tools for interpreting life codes. Life science concerns the health and development of human beings. Relevant applications are playing a more and more important role in addressing such challenges, such as major diseases, aging populations, environmental pollution and resource shortages, and in promoting the sustainable development of the world economy and society. Life science has become a key area of technological innovation in many countries, and is faced with unprecedented development opportunities.

China is fully implementing strategies of "Innovation-driven Development" and "Healthy China". By intensifying research on life science and attaching great importance to the development of life science, new technologies and new industries. China has gradually come to occupy a position as global leader in some medical science areas. Chinese scientists have successfully researched the non-human primate cell cloning technology and have effectively optimized, replaced and reduced the number of experimental animals in accordance with the ethics of experimental animals. With the support of this technology, better models of non-human primate diseases can be established in the future, to develop cheaper and more effective drugs for the benefit of mankind. In addition, China is currently leading the world in the application of genetic technologies, especially gene sequencing technology, which has a high precision and low cost incomparable by other countries. Genetic technology may be applied in a great many areas in the future, from food, seed security to the new generation of ID cards using bio-identification technology. Through genetic screening, human can get rid of genetic diseases that are incurable or curable at high costs today, which will certainly promote a revolutionary reform in the medical field.

2. Human social ethics are the framework and bottom line for development of cutting-edge technologies.

The rapid development of cutting-edge technologies will not only constantly change the way of life

for human beings and promote social progress, but also inevitably impact and challenge the existing social ethics. How human beings should unite common values to ensure that the scientific and technological developments that take place will ultimately benefit humanity, is a major contemporary issue and a core topic of this forum.

A new social contract or human rights convention may be established to evade ethical risks. Artificial intelligence production has poses new challenges in democratic societies, due to the governments need to address issues of monopoly and misuse of digital assets, transparency, zero marginal cost society and threats to human survival. Human society is now at a crossroads. The development of science and technology may give birth to a Utopian society or one similar, that can satisfy and take care of everyone's basic needs, or aggravate the maldistribution. Therefore, while paying attention to the integration of artificial intelligence and industry, we should consider establishing a new social contract or human rights convention to define the relationship between technology and social ethics which is based on moral integrity. This new convention will define the boundary between the two to avoid ethical and moral risks and welcome the inclusion of a digital society.

Collective ownership of the digital assets relating to artificial intelligence should be established. In the era of big data, data ownership will have a major impact on the security, development and life of human society. Should artificial intelligence belong to the state, consortiums or individuals? To prevent artificial intelligence becoming a privilege of a few or a weapon, we should develop an artificial intelligence system that is fair, transparent, widely applicable and people-oriented. Therefore, it is necessary to conscientiously carry out top-level design, and develop systems and specifications based on human ethics and global rules to welcome the development of the 21st century digital society or the digital economy. To prevent digital assets from being monopolized or misused, control over personal data should be prohibited. The collective ownership of digital assets should be established as a framework for basic personal security and the relationship between development of cutting-edge technologies and social needs should be properly handled.

The relationship between technology and ethics may be adjusted through cross-disciplinary, cross-border cooperation. The rapid development of artificial intelligence puts the human society in a situation that is more complicated than ever before, and consequential issues also bring enormous

challenges to the existing social order. In designing and developing artificial intelligence, we must take into consideration the following aspects which are: protection of personal interests and maximization of collective interests. This needs to be addressed through cross-disciplinary cooperation, such as cooperation between law, social, ethical, and technical sectors. Only by building a social system that is effective, due to multiple cross-disciplinary parties, can we find an effective mechanism to solve the conflict between technology and ethics. Understanding the balance between technology and ethics is important in selecting the scenarios that may be funded to meet the needs of human development without dangerously effecting human ethics.

3. China should assume its responsibility as a great power and lead the development of science and technology

As China increases its national strength, reforming and improving innovative technologies will assist in achieving China's sustainable development goals. In the future, China will play a leading role in more fields, forming a set of scientific and technological development concepts and management mechanisms with Chinese characteristics. It is the due responsibility for China to exchange and share with other countries the scientific and technological developments it has acquired.

Firstly, China's achievements in artificial intelligence is an area in which China can share its success to the world. As a country with the largest population, China has the biggest experimental field of human society. China's investments in artificial intelligence and related fields, as well as China's exploration in sustainable development and business models are both areas in which can share such knowledge with the world.

Secondly, China has a development plan that may be viably utilized by the international community. The Chinese development plan is based on advantages China has from its large population and based on Chinese characteristics and culture. China has in the last century been a strong manufacturing nation with strong production capacity, a broad market and a population who are attracted to and enthusiastic about new technologies. The government has promoted research and planning in fields like application of robots and artificial intelligence systems through addressing technological, legal

and ethical issues, to form a development pattern that is in line with the international practice, and is widely acceptable and recognizable.

Thirdly, China should strengthen research in computer social science and other new fields and improve governance. Computer social science was first launched by Tsinghua University to promote the application of new technologies such as big data, machine learning and artificial intelligence in political science, economics, sociology, physiology, law and communication. The Chinese government should, under the frame of law, apply massive data assets and resources to ensure good governance, and obtain a clear picture of economic development and social operation and needs of different social entities. This can be done through the use of efficient data analysis and mining technologies to enhance its degree of intelligence and democratic governance.

Finally, China should strengthen its system design and solve the increasingly acute conflict between the rich and the poor. People are getting anxious about the possible unemployment caused by artificial intelligence, but in fact, artificial intelligence, robots and automation will sharply increase the productivity and efficiency. If total productivity can meet the needs of all people to live a well-off life, the core problem will be how to distribute resources. Many developed countries are now experiencing a long-term economic depression, which is mainly due to the widening gap between the rich and the poor that leads to insufficient overall demand. The Chinese government should proactively strengthen institutional design and research, make full use of the potential benefits of artificial intelligence, build a shared society and strive to address the increasingly acute conflict between the rich and the poor on the global scale.
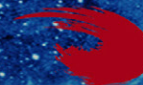
It is agreed by the participants that the critical point of cutting-edge technologies has arrived, which will have a substantial impact on the world. Biological technology represented by genetic engineering technology will, in the near future, lead to revolutionary changes in the medical industry and have a direct impact on human reproductive inheritance; artificial intelligence will remarkably improve labor productivity and gradually replace a large amount of non-creative work; through human-machine integration and human-machine connection, artificial intelligence will lead us into a new era, and change our lives and our industry.

Media Coverage of the 2nd Taihe Civilizations Forum

Dozens of well-known media at home and abroad, such as CCTV, People's Daily, China Daily, Global Network, China Network, Global Times, National Business Daily, iQIYI, Hong Kong Ta Kung Pao, Hong Kong Mingpao Daily, China Search International Communication Center, Global People magazine, Market News International and Sputniknews, have made full coverage of the 2nd Taihe Civilizations Forum, and interviewed important participants like former Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, former Chairman of the UN Economic and Social Council, Marie Chatardova, Chairman of the Global Cooperation Forum, Amir Dossal, CEO of Perfect World, Xiao Hong, Executive Director of China Energy Conservation and Emission Reduction Fund Management Committee, Zhou Kai, Secretary General of the Ecological Civilization Research Center of the College of Environment of Tsinghua University, Wen Zongguo, Vice President of the School of International Studies of Renmin University of China, Jin Canrong, Director and General Manager of Lenovo Capital and Incubator Group, Wang Guangxi, Director General of National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation, Li Junfeng and Director of Taihe Institute Europe Center, Thorsten Jelinek. The media released more than 53 original news reports and interview reports which were viewed more than 1 million times within 24 hours. At the same time, iQiyi conducted a live broadcast of the opening and closing ceremonies of this forum. China Search International Communication Center made this event and participant interviews into a documentary, which was released on CCTV and the Internet.
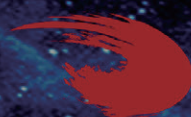
The media coverage provided diversified channels for spreading the event, including the wonderful wisdom shared by our participants and activities, which will help garner understanding and recognition of Taihe Institute and Taihe Civilizations Forum among well-known domestic and international media outlets as well as world-wide audiences. In the future, we will work more closely with friends in the media industry to turn Taihe Civilizations Forum into an influential and internationally well-known brand.

太和智库
Taihe Institute

太和文明论坛
Taihe Civilizations Forum