

An Introduction to the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2013 And China-South Asia Peace And Development Forum

The Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2013 and China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum was held in Kunming City, China during 20-22 September, 2013.

About CPAPD

Founded in June 1985 by various mass organizations and prominent personages from all walks of life, the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD) is the largest nationwide non-governmental peace organisation, with a total of 28 member organisations and 118 council members. The objective of the CPAPD is to promote mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation between the peoples of China and the rest of the world in joint efforts to maintain world peace, oppose arms race and war, strive for complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, protect ecological environment, eradicate poverty, and promote social harmony and development.

The CPAPD conducts cooperation and exchanges in various forms with more than 300 non-governmental peace organizations and research institutions in about 90 countries, and takes an active part in multilateral activities of the international NGO community. The CPAPD focuses its academic research mainly on issues of arms control and disarmament, non-proliferation, peace and security, and sustainable development. It holds bilateral or multilateral seminars regularly.

Dedicated to peace education, environmental conservation and poverty alleviation, the CPAPD has been a leading sponsor of the "International Week of Science and Peace" and the Commemoration of the Inter-

national Day of Peace initiated by the United Nations for many consecutive years, and has initiated projects like the Forest of Peace and Friendship, and the Primary School of Peace. The CPAPD also conducted various public projects in Central and Western China, such as planting trees to combat desertification and making donations to promote education. The CPAPD was awarded "Peace Messenger" by the United Nations. It is in consultative status with the ECOSOC and in associative status with the DPI of the United Nations.

About the International Day of Peace and Relevant Commemorative Activities in China

The International Day of Peace is an important peace-promoting event established officially by the United Nations by resolution. In 1981, the United Nations General Assembly passed the resolution, which established the opening day of the General Assembly in every September as the International Day of Peace devoted to "strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among peoples of all countries". In 2001, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution which fixed the annual International Day of Peace on 21 September. Every year since then, the United Nations sets a theme for each International Day of Peace, carries out a grand commemorative ceremony, and calls upon countries around the world to hold commemorative activities in various forms. In recent years, as the largest peace organisation in China, the CPAPD has responded actively to the call of the United Nations, and by hosting a series of commemorative activities, propagated China's concepts on peaceful development and advancement of world harmony, and promoted peace, development,

cooperation and friendship among peoples of the world. Such efforts have had positive repercussions both at home and abroad.

In 2009, in accordance with the theme set for the International Day of Peace by the United Nations, "We Must Disarm", the CPAPD held a large symposium on "Complete Prohibition and Thorough Destruction of Nuclear Weapons, Making Joint Efforts to Safeguard World Peace". In 2010, in accordance with the theme set by the United Nations, "Youth for Peace and Development", the CPAPD, the UN System in China and the All-China Youth Federation co-sponsored a commemorative assembly in the Great Hall of the People, Beijing, on the theme of "Chinese Youth and Peaceful Development". In 2011, in accordance with the theme set by the United Nations, "Make Your Voice Heard", the CPAPD, the UN System in China, and the Liaoning Provincial People's Government organised a series of commemorative activities on "International Day of Peace and Northeast Asia Peace and Development Forum" in Shenyang and Dalian. In 2012, in accordance with the theme set by the United Nations, "Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future", the CPAPD, the UN System in China, and the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government jointly held a series of commemorative activities of the "International Day of Peace and China-Southeast Asia Peace and Development Forum". The CCTV, Xinhua News Agency, People's Daily, China Daily, China Radio International, Phoenix Television, and local media covered the celebrations in an intensive manner. Some foreign media reproduced relevant reports.

In recent years, with the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace growing in scale, the influence of the event has been on the rise. The commemorations have not only centred on the themes set by the United Nations, but also reflected Chinese characteris-



tics, especially involving China's interactions with its neighbouring countries. The events have had the participation of Chinese leaders, representatives from peace organisations and think tanks, Chinese people of all circles, and an increasing number of foreign incumbent and former political leaders, celebrities and, representatives from foreign peace organisations and other relevant organisations. Commemorative activities have evolved from a single convention to a series of comprehensive activities incorporating forums, culture, arts, exchanges, and field surveys. Initially celebrated in Beijing, now the event is held in places other than Beijing. All this indicates that the International Day of Peace celebrations held in China with Chinese and regional characteristics have enriched the commemoration of the International Day of Peace advocated by the United Nations and made due contributions to world peace and common development.

About the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2013 and China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum

To mark the International Day of Peace 2013, in accordance with its theme set by the United Nations, i.e., "Education for Peace", the CPAPD jointly held the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2013 and China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum with the UN System in China and the Yunnan Provincial People's Government, with the theme of "Education for Peace

and Cooperation for Mutual Benefits: A Common Wish of the People in the Region". By carrying out a commemorative convention and a series of activities, the CPAPD intended to convey to the international community the wishes of the Chinese and South Asian peoples for peace, strengthened cooperation and common development, to step up the pragmatic cooperation and exchanges between Chinese and South Asian peoples, and to disseminate the concept of peace and promote the friendship between the peoples of China and South Asia in a peaceful and harmonious atmosphere. The Chinese Association for International Understanding, China NGO Network for International Exchanges, and China Foundation for Peace and Development co-sponsored this event. This event was organised by the Office of Foreign Affairs, Yunnan Provincial People's Government. The series of commemorative activities were held in Kunming in 20-22 September, 2013. It received a lot of attention and concern both from home and abroad. Chinese CPC and state leaders, twelve South and Southeast Asian incumbent and former political leaders as well as Chinese and foreign representatives of all circles took part in the commemorative activities. Additionally, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sent his video speech.

The Chinese leaders present included Mr. Li Yuanchao, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Vice President of China, and Mr. Han Qide, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and CPAPD President; the South and Southeast Asian incumbent and former political leaders included Mr.

Abdul Ibrahim, Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People) National Assembly of Afghanistan, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament, Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Mr. U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Moudud Ahmed, former Prime Minister and Vice-President of Bangladesh, elected Member of the Bangladesh Parliament, Mr. W.J.M. Lokubandara, former Speaker of the Sri Lanka Parliament, Hon. Governor of the Sabaragamuwa Province, Ramesh Nath Pandey, former Foreign Minister of Nepal, Dr. Jayantha Dhanapala, former UN Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Salah Shihab, former minister and Special Envoy of the Vice President of the Republic of Maldives, Ms. Renata Dessallien, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in China, Mr. Iqbal Zafar Jhagra, Secretary-General of the Pakistan Muslim League (N.), and Mr. Kamal Safi, Secretary of the Finance and Budget Commission, Afghan National Assembly and Member of Wolesi Jirga.

The event attracted around 1,000 attendees. Among them, there were nearly 200 political leaders, former political leaders, government officials, world peace activists, scholars, and media representatives.

General information and major achievements of the event:

i. In the morning of 21 September, 2013, the opening ceremony of the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2013 and China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum was successfully held at Haigeng Auditorium. Fourteen Chinese leaders and

12 incumbent and former political leaders of South and Southeast Asian countries attended the ceremony with a total participation of around 1,000. The atmosphere was solemn and heated. At the ceremony, Mr. Li Yuanchao, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Chinese Vice President delivered an enthusiastic keynote speech titled "Build Lasting Peace in South Asia through Cooperation and Development". Mr. Han Qide, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and CPAPD President, made a speech titled "Education for Peace and Development". Mr. Li Jiheng, Governor of Yunnan Province, Mr. Abdul Ibrahim, Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People), National Assembly of Afghanistan, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament, and Renata Dessalieu, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in China also addressed the ceremony. Moreover, a video congratulatory message of Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary-General, was played.


ii. The China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum was successfully held. The Forum consisted of a High-level Dialogue and four sub-forums. On the theme of "Pooling Wisdom and Converging Consensus: Promoting the New Development of China-South-Asia Relationship", the High-level Dialogue was divided in two stages, which were committed respectively to the topics of "Jointly Promoting Lasting Peace in South Asia" and "New Ideas for Pragmatic Cooperation". In the afternoon of the 21st, two sub-forums were held with the themes being respectively "Education for Peace and Development" and "Mutual Benefit and Win-Win Outcome: Elevating the Economic Cooperation between China and South Asian Countries". In the morning of 22nd, another two sub-forums were held, with the themes being respectively "Peace Building Process in Afghanistan: The New Starting Point for Reconciliation and Cooperation in the Region" and "Opportunities and Challenges: Inheritance and Innovative Development of the China-South-Asia Relations".

iii. Meetings between leaders. In the morning of the 21st, Mr. Li Yuanchao, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Vice President of China, had a group meeting with the foreign political leaders attending the event. In the afternoon, Vice President Li Yuanchao had

separate meetings with Mr. Abdul Ibrahim, Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People), National Assembly of Afghanistan and Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament. The parties had cordial and friendly talks on issues like China-South Asia, China-Afghanistan, and China-Bangladesh relations. In the evening of 21 September, Mr. Han Qide, CPPCC Vice Chairman and CPAPD President hosted a reception to welcome the foreign political leaders attending the event. The leaders of CPAPD, relevant ministries and departments, and leaders of Yunnan Province availed themselves of intervals between activities and business meals to have more than ten meetings with South Asian and Southeast Asian political leaders. These bilateral and multilateral meetings have promoted understanding, mutual trust and friendliness.

iv. During the event, supportive events such as Art Exhibition on Peace were successfully organised. The Chinese and foreign delegates also paid a visit to Yunnan University of Nationalities and Yunnan Nationalities Village. In the evening of the 22nd, the closing ceremony of the event and gala was held.

Through in-depth exchange, the delegates have reached the following consensus on the role of education in promoting peace, maintaining regional stability, advancing common development, and achieving mutual benefit. First, it is the common wish of the peoples in the region to maintain peace. China and most South Asian countries had a history of foreign invasion and domestic chaos. No one is more keenly aware of the preciousness of peace than us. China and South Asian countries are all developing countries. We all need a peaceful and stable international environment and friendly neighbouring environment. All the participating parties have expressed unequivocally the common wish to seek peace and maintain security and vowed to safeguard, build and promote peace. Second, development is a common mission of the region. China has a poverty-stricken population of more than 100 million. The figure was about 600 million for the eight countries in South Asia. The Chinese people are striving to realise the Chinese Dream. Through this event, the participants have keenly felt that the Chinese Dream is consistent with the dreams of South Asian countries. All our peoples look forward to a beautiful future. The common development

of China and South Asia will give a strong momentum to the rise of Asia. Third, win-win cooperation is a common aspiration of the peoples in the region. The cultural and geographical vicinity and great market potential of China and South Asian countries have provided numerous advantages for strengthening exchange and mutual learning and expanding win-win cooperation. It is our consensus that we should translate the potential advantages into favourable conditions for development, see the others' development as a major opportunity, and further all-round, open cooperation. China and South Asian countries should promote connectivity and step up the construction of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor and China-Pakistan Economic Cooperation Corridor, thereby turning the Asian Continent spanning China and South Asia into a cradle of peace, development and cooperation. Fourth, it is a consensus that regional diversity should be respected. Despite their different cultures, traditions and social systems, China and South Asian countries have enjoyed friendly relations and close cooperation. This has indicated that countries of different civilisations can coexist in harmony. If we uphold the spirit of inclusiveness and learn from each other, we can transcend differences, build consensus, achieve harmony and progress of different civilisations, maintain the diversity of the world, and develop in different ways. Fifth, people-to-people exchange between China and South Asia should be encouraged to enhance mutual understanding and friendship. The key to sound relations between states lies in the affinity between their peoples, which largely stems from mutual understanding. The traditional friendship between China and South Asian countries is deeply rooted among the peoples. Only if our peoples take part with zeal can the friendship between our countries last and thrive and can the basis for our cooperation be further consolidated. All the participating parties have unequivocally pointed out that China and South Asia should promote the friendly contacts between non-governmental groups, think tanks, youth organisations and media, and continuously reinforce and strengthen the social basis for the relations between the countries. With peaceful development as a bond and win-win cooperation as a goal, the Chinese and South Asian countries will join hands to usher in an even brighter future. 

Participants

FOREIGN LEADERS

Abdul Raouf Ibrahimi	Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People), National Assembly of Afghanistan
Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury	Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament
Murtaza Javed Abbasi	Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan
U Nanda Kyaw Swa	Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Moudud Ahmed	Former Prime Minister and Vice-President of Bangladesh, Elected Member of the Bangladesh Parliament
W.J.M. Lokubandara	Hon. Governor of the Sabaragamuwa Province, Former Speaker of the Sri Lanka Parliament
Ramesh Nath Pandey	Former Foreign Minister of Nepal
Jayantha Dhanapala	Former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, the 11th President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs
Salah Shihab	Special Envoy of the Vice President of the Republic of Maldives
Renata Dessallien	UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, China
Kamal Safi	Member of Wolesi Jirga
Iqbal Zafar Jhagra	Secretary General of Pakistan Muslim League (N)

GUESTS FROM ABROAD (IN ALPHABETIC ORDER OF THE COUNTRIES)

S.Salih Mohd Salih	Member of Wolesi Jirga, Afghanistan
Abdul Khalil Minaw	Director General of Bakhter NewsAgency (BNA), Afghanistan
Abdul Satar Khawasi	Member of Wolesi Jirga, Afghanistan
Ahmad Zaher Nuri	Member of international studies of Center for Strategic Studies (CSS), Afghanistan
Fakhruddin Bayazidi	Protocol Officer of International Affairs Department of Wolesi Jirga, Afghanistan
Fazal Agha Mujadidi	Protocol Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan
Kazim Ali	Vice-Chairman of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan
Mohammad Zakaria Sawda	Member of Wolesi Jirga, Afghanistan
Naqibullah Muhabat	Member of Wolesi Jirga, Afghanistan
Nasratullah Azimullah	Adviser for the Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga, Afghanistan
Panjshiri Abdul Rahman	Director of Planning and International Relations, RTA of Afghanistan
Safiullah Muslim	Member of the House, Afghanistan
Said Farooq Omer	Chief of Staff for the Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga, Afghanistan
Ghulam Farooq Nazar	Member of the House, Afghanistan
Irfanullah Irfan	Secretary of the House, Afghanistan
Esmatullah Shinwari	Member of Wolesi Jirga, Afghanistan
Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed	Chairman of the Senate Defense and Defense Production Committee, Pakistan, President of the Pakistan-China Association
Akram Khan Durrani	Member of National Assembly of Pakistan
Amir Haider Khan	Former Chief Minister, Member of National Assembly of Pakistan

Darshan	Member of National Assembly of Pakistan, Chairman of Ethnic Affairs Committee
Mian Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri	President of the Regional Peace Institute, Former Caretaker Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Former Foreign Minister of Pakistan
Humayun Malik	Protocol Officer of International Affairs Department of National Assembly of Pakistan
Javed Hassan	Pakistan Muslim League (N) Deputy Chairman of Punjab Province
Raoof Hasan	Former Vice President of the Movement for Justice Party, Member of the Board of Governors, and Executive Director of the Regional Peace Institute.
Nelson Azeem	Former Member of National Assembly of Pakistan
Nehal Hashmi	Member of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Central Working Committee
Muhammed Arif	Assistant to Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Pakistan
Muhammad Farooq Azam	Editor-in-Chief of the Islamabad Agency of the Daily Times, a mainstream media Pakistan
Nawabzada Jangaiz Mari	Deputy Chairman of Pakistan Muslim League (N)
Nuzhat Sadiq	Chairperson of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Women's Committee, Senator
Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema	Former President of Islamabad Policy Research Institute, Dean, Faculty of Contemporary Studies National Defense University, Pakistan
Saleem Zia	Pakistan Muslim League (N) Secretary-General of Sindh Province
Saleem Khan	Senior Journalist Geo News, Pakistan
Shah Jee Gul Afridi	Member of National Assembly of Pakistan
Shahab Uddin Khan	Member of National Assembly of Pakistan
Shala Awan Hasan	Pakistan Scholar
Sarzamin	Member of National Assembly of Pakistan
Shaista Pervez Malik	Member of National Assembly of Pakistan
Syeda Nighat Ali	Member of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Women's Committee
Siddiq ul Farooq	Member of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Central Working Committee
Shehryar Afridi	Member of National Assembly of Pakistan
Sheikh Rashid Ahmed	Member of the Pakistan Parliament, Former Federal Minister
Zahra Wadood Fatemi	Member of National Assembly of Pakistan
Ali Hussain	Journalist TVM, Maldives
Ali Raazee	Journalist at the Voice of Maldives
Mohamed Rasheed	Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives to the People's Republic of China
Sameer Shiruzimath	Deputy Division Chief of the Division of China Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Republic of Maldives
Zagdjav	President of the Union for Peace and Friendship, Mongolia
Tsoggerel B.	Assistant to and Interpreter for Mr. Zagdjav, Mongolia
Dr. M. A. Quassem	General Secretary of the Bangladesh Peace Council
Hamid Zaman	Researcher of the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS)
M.A. Kamal Billah	Assistant to the Speaker of Bangladesh
Dr. Rafiqul Islam	Member of the Presidium of the Bangladesh Peace Council
Chemon Ara Begum	Member of the Bangladesh Parliament
Shahnaz Gazi	Consul-General of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Kunming
Shahidul Islam	Research Fellow of the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University of Bangladesh
Tun Tun Lin	Assistant Director of the Deputy Speaker Office, Pyithu Hluttaw, Myanmar
Zaw Zaw Htike	Deputy Director of the Deputy Speaker Office, Pyithu Hluttaw, Myanmar

Bhaskar Koirala	Director of the Nepal Institute of International and Strategic Studies
Milan Raj Dharel	Council member of the Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council
Durgesh Man Singh	Former Nepal Ambassador to the EU, Chairman of the Centre for Economic Development and Administration
Prakash Rai	Council member of the Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council
Siddhartha Thapa	Chair of the Youth League of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party
W.J.M. Damith Y. Lokubandara	Coordinating Secretary to the Hon. Governor of the Sabaragamuwa Province
Kalyananda Godage	Member of the Board-meeting of the Pathfinder Foundation, former Ambassador to EU and Switzerland, well-known columnist in Sri Lanka
Christopher Daneshan Casie Chetty	Executive Director of the South Asia Policy & Research Institute (SAPRI), Sri Lanka
W.J.M. Rashmin P. Lokubandara	Son of the Hon. Governor of the Sabaragamuwa Province
Ranga Sasanka Jayasuriya	Deputy Editor of Ceylon Today, Sri Lanka
Malathi P. Lokubandara	Wife to the former Speaker of Sri Lanka, Hon. Governor of the Sabaragamuwa Province
Maureen Joan Cecilia Dhanapala	Wife to the former United Nations Under-Secretary-General
Sivanka Darsha Dhanapala	Senior Policy Advisor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy	Vice President of the Pathfinder Foundation of Sri Lanka
Binu Vanchithara Bhaskaran	Secretary of the All-India Peace and Solidarity Organization
Ramachandaran Shastri	Well-known editor and writer in India, free-lancer, columnist.
Dr. Ravni Thakur	Professor on China Studies at the Department of East Asian Studies, Delhi University
Prabir Purkayastha	Vice President of the All-India Peace and Solidarity Organization
Dr. Uma Purushothaman	Associate Research Fellow at Observer Research Foundation, India
Arpan Munier	Program Officer of UN System in China, Assistant to Ms. Renata Dessallien

CHINESE LEADERS

Li Yuanchao	Member of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPC, Vice President of the People's Republic of China
Han Qide	Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), President of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD)
Mao Rubai	Chairman of the Committee on Environmental and Resources Protection of the 10th National People's Congress, Adviser of the CPAPD
Wang Guangtao	Chairman of the Committee on Environmental and Resources Protection of the 11th National People's Congress, Vice President of the CPAPD
Li Jiheng	Governor of Yunnan Provincial People's Government
Luo Zhengfu	Chairman of the Yunnan Provincial Committee of the CPPCC
Li Jinjun	Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the CPC (IDCPC), Adviser to the CPAPD
Du Zhanyuan	Vice Minister of Education, China
Gao Yan	Vice Minister of Commerce, China
Qiu He	Deputy Secretary of the CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee
Zeng Hua	Chairman of the Jiu San Society Yunnan Provincial Committee, Vice Chairman of Yunnan Provincial Committee of the CPPCC

Zhou Hanmin	Vice Chairman of the Central Committee of China National Democratic Construction Association, Vice Chairman of Shanghai Municipal Committee of the CPPCC
Ni Huifang	Vice Chairwoman of the Central Committee of China Democratic League, Vice Chairwoman of Yunan Provincial Committee of the CPPCC
Ma Wenpu	Former Vice Minister of the IDCPC, Executive Vice President of the CPAPD
He Jun	Former Assistant Minister of the IDCPC, Vice President of the CPAPD
Pan Zhenqiang	Major General (Rtd), Adviser to the CPAPD
Chen Jingwei	Vice Chairman of the Economic Committee of the CPPCC, Vice Chairman of All-China Federation of Industries and Businessmen

CHINESE REPRESENTATIVES

An Du	Famous Painter
Bian Junsheng	Deputy Secretary-General of China Organizing Committee of UN SPW
Chen Hang	CPAPD Council Member, Party Secretary of Beijing Ditan Hospital
Chen Huaifan	Deputy Secretary of the CPAPD
Chen Jingguo	Deputy President of the Chinese Association of Calligraphers and Painters
Chen Lijun	Director of Institute of South Asia Studies, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences
Chu Junfeng	Deputy Director General of the Protocol Bureau of the IDCPC
Du Yan	Counselor of the Coordination Bureau of the IDCPC
Gong Hongbo	Secretary of Discipline and Supervision of the Office of Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs in Liaoning Province
Han Yuhui	CPAPD Council Member, Chairman of Shanxi Chinese Arts International Exchange Co., Ltd.
Hu Ping	CPAPD Council Member, President of China Electronics Engineering Design Institute
Hu Jianzhen	CPAPD Council Member, Vice-President of Zijin Fulcrum Technology Co., Ltd.
Huang Huazhao	Member of the Chinese Association of Painters
Huang Jinbao	Chairman of YOFOTO (China) Health Industry Co., Ltd.
Jiang Li	CPAPD Council Member, Executive Secretary of APEC China Business Council
Jiang Zhenli	President of the Chinese Association of Painters, Member of the Chinese Association of Calligraphers
Xie Liping	CPAPD Council Member, Deputy Director of the Shanghai Office of Yunnan Provincial People's Government
Li Biao	CPAPD Council Member, Chairman of Sichuan Haite High-tech Co., Ltd.
Li Li	Chairman of Shanxi Chinese Arts International Exchange Co., Ltd.
Li Li	Deputy Director of Institute of South and Southeast Asian and Oceanian Studies, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations
Li Xianhua	CPAPD Council Member, CEO of HNA Group
Li Xiulian	CPAPD Council Member, Singer, Tourism Ambassador of Xinjiang Province
Li Zhengling	Deputy Director of the Managing Committee of the Tourism Resort in Penglai City
Lin Chuxue	Executive Vice President of China Three Gorges Corporation
Liu Kaiyang	Deputy Secretary General of the Chinese Association for International Understanding
Liu Yuening	CPAPD Council Member, Vice President of the Western Returned Scholar Association--Chinese Overseas-Educated Scholars Association (WRSA), Professor of Central Conservatory of Music(CCOM), Director of the Office of the Music Confucius Institute (MCI) of CCOM

- Liu Zhenwen** Deputy Director of the Managing Committee of the Tourism Resort in Penglai City
- Ma Jiali** Executive Deputy Director of Centre for Strategic Studies, China Reform Forum
- Ma Zhanling** Secretary General of the Hong Kong China Chamber of Commerce
- Peng Hongwei** Director of the Academia Committee of the China-Myanmar Friendship Association
- Qian Fangliang** Deputy Director of the General Bureau of the IDCPC
- Rao Huihua** Deputy Director General of the Bureau One of the IDCPC
- Ren Jia** President of Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences
- Ren Guoming** Deputy Director of the Office of Foreign Affairs of Shenzhen Municipal People's Government
- Ren Tianyang** CPAPD Council Member, Editor in Chief of Southern Metropolis Daily
- Shen Jiqian** CPAPD Council Member, Chairman/CEO of Anhui Mengdu Group
- Shi Guanghui** Vice General Manager of YOFOTO (China) Health Industry Co., Ltd.
- Shi Shengguang** Director of International Cooperation Dept. of China Southern Power Grid Co., Ltd.
- Song Bin** CPAPD Council Member, Editor in Chief of the Chinese Master Calligraphers and Painters
- Sun Hongmei** Famous Painter
- Sun Yuxi** Former Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan, India, Italy and Poland
- Tao Tao** Deputy Secretary General of the CPAPD
- Wang Ping** CPAPD Council Member, Chairman of Shenzhen Multidimensional Exhibition Investment Co., Ltd.
- Wang Shaofeng** Vice President of CWE Investment Corporation
- Wang Yige** CPAPD Council Member, Performing Artist with Beijing Peking Opera House
- Wang Yuxiang** CPAPD Council Member, Chairman of Beijing Aeroiminfo Technology Co., Ltd.
- Wu Shumin** Counselor of the Center for International Exchanges of the IDCPC
- Xu Chengda** CPAPD Council Member, President of the Gas Association of Changzhou City
- Xu Yongjie** Director General of the Overseas Business Department, China Metallurgical Group Corporation
- Yang Sen** Deputy Director China Organizing Committee of UN SPW
- Yang Jianguo** CPAPD Council Member, Assistant President and Professor of Beijing Foreign Studies University
- You Jianhua** Director General of the Coordination Bureau of the IDCPC
- Zhang Haixia** CPAPD Council Member, Deputy Director of the Press Bureau of CPPCC
- Zhao Fang** General Manager of the Department of Investment Management of China Mobile
- Zhao Bingbing** Deputy Director General of the Research Office of the IDCPC
- Zhong Jinghua** CPAPD Council Member, Chairman, Guangdong Taijiafeng Investment Co., Ltd.
- Zhu Rui** Secretary General of the CPAPD



Jointly Building Lasting Peace in South Asia through Cooperation and Development

---Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2013 and China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum

LI YUANCHAO

Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPC, Vice President of the People's Republic of China

Honorable Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury,
Honorable Speaker Abdul Rouf Ibrahim,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2013 and China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum is held in the beautiful province of Yunnan. On behalf of the Chinese government, I wish to extend warmest welcome to all our guests.

This forum, as a platform for dialogues and discussions on cooperation and development of China and South Asian countries, and on our concerted efforts for peace, is a response to the calls of our times, and to the aspiration of our people.

Lying between the Himalayan Mountains and the Indian Ocean, South Asia is a vast region covering nearly 5 million square kilometers with a total population of over 1.6 billion. The people here, who have suffered for a long time from wars and chaos, share a common desire for lasting peace.

The destinies of the South Asian people are bound together by similar histories. As one of the four cradles of great ancient civilizations, South Asia used to be the most prosperous part of the world. Since modern times, however, invasions

by Western colonizers have brought enormous sufferings to the region. The people of South Asia fought tenaciously for independence of the country and liberalization of the people, and finally embarked on a path of independent development of their own. In this process, the people of the region have forged a community of shared destiny.

War is the biggest stumbling block to development in South Asia. In the colonial period, the colonizers, with their "divide and rule" strategy, sowed the seeds of conflicts in the region. Over the decades, countries in South Asia have lost many development opportunities to territorial disputes, sectarian strife, and ethnical conflicts. Three decades of war in Afghanistan have made over 11 million people refugees, and the civil war of Sri Lanka displaced more than 700,000 people. From the 1960s to the 1980s, South Asia's economy grew by only about 4% annually, while the "Four Asian Tigers" were rocketing at 10%. At present, there are still 600 million South Asian people living in poverty. According to a development report by the World Bank, political and security situation is a major factor impeding economic growth in South Asia. History tells us that, to pursue economic growth and better livelihood, we must first and

foremost secure peace and stability.

Lasting peace is a shared aspiration of the South Asian people. The people of the region have made unremitting efforts for peace. India and Afghanistan were among those who initiated the first summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961 to oppose colonialism and imperialism. In recent years, with eased tension between India and Pakistan, and positive developments in the rebuilding of Afghanistan, reconciliation among South Asian countries has been gaining momentum. A relatively more stable regional environment has enabled economic and social development in South Asia. India has seen its modern service sector booming, with highlights on software and financial industries; and Sri Lanka has experienced 4 years of rapid GDP growth averaging 6.5% annually since the end of its civil war. On the whole, South Asia has been growing by over 6% each year since 2008. Having benefited from the fruits of peace, the people of South Asia are hoping for the tree of peace to take deeper roots and thrive in their homeland.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Having been victimized by colonial invasion for a long time in history, the Chinese people have keen empathy for the sufferings of their neighbors in South

Asia. Both China and South Asia are now facing important development opportunities. Together, with more than one third of the world's total population, we should stand united and work jointly for development and lasting peace in the region.

First, we should champion the cause of peace, and pool our strength in the pursuit. Both China and South Asia have a tradition of love for peace. The Indian epic Mahabharata tells about how the ancient Indians ceased unjust wars for the sake of peace. And in China, proverbs such as “peace is most precious” and “beat swords into ploughshares” reflect the philosophy of peace cherished by the Chinese nation. The five principles of peaceful coexistence, jointly initiated by China, India and Myanmar, have now become the basic norms of international relations. Lasting peace in the region is in the best interests of both the South Asian and the Chinese people. China cannot be more willing to see prosperity and stability in South Asia. The 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China reiterated peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit as the guiding principles in our foreign relations, and identified good neighborliness as the top priority in China's foreign policy. The Chinese government attaches great importance to the relationship with South Asia. China stands ready to collaborate with South Asian countries to pool our strength and promote development through preserving and building peace.

Second, we should take matters in our own hands and oppose foreign intervention. As the saying goes in Nepal, “our own hands are the rulers of the nature.” Bearing a memory of the colonial times when they had no control of their own destiny, the people of South Asia have developed their independent foreign policies through their fight against colonial rule and foreign intervention. In 1985, the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was officially founded. So far, 17 SAARC summits have been convened among the member states to empower themselves through unity and solidarity. Firmly

believing in the traditional philosophy of “never imposing on others what you would not choose for yourself,” China has long adhered to the independent foreign policy of peace. China is willing to stand together with South Asian countries to follow the five principles of peaceful coexistence in handling state-to-state relations, respect the right of all countries to independently choose their social systems and development paths, and oppose foreign intervention and bullying by the big and strong countries against the small and weak.

Third, we should enhance dialogues and consultations to peacefully resolve disputes. Tagore, the great Indian poet, once said: “Brute force shows but the weakness of mankind.” It is dialogues and consultations that are the correct way to resolve conflicts and disputes. In recent years, South Asian countries have endeavored to seek resolutions of their disputes through peaceful consultations. India and Pakistan, for example, are continuing with peace talks; Bangladesh and India have settled their land border; and countries in the region are making efforts to negotiate for a joint water resource management policy. China has been committed to handling territorial and maritime disputes with neighboring countries through dialogues and consultations, and so far we have successfully resolved land border issues left over by history with 12 neighbors. China wishes to work with South Asian countries to settle disputes and conflicts through peaceful negotiations and reconciliation, and oppose the use or threat of force.


Fourth, we should expand mutually beneficial cooperation to achieve development and win-win. It has become a general trend for countries to promote development through cooperation, and to promote peace through development. In recent years, SAARC members have signed a free trade agreement and an agreement on trade in services, and they are now endeavoring for more connectivity in the region which facilitates regional economic integration. China highly values our mutually beneficial cooperation with SAARC, and in 2006

became one of the first observers of the SAARC. In 2012, China's trade volume with SAARC reached \$ 93 billion, and the accumulated contract value exceeded \$ 100 billion. China is willing to work together with South Asian countries in the spirit of equality and win-win cooperation, to fully leverage our advantages of geographical closeness and economic complementarities, accelerate the improvement of connectivity, expand concrete cooperation in various fields, build an ever closer community of common interests, and lay a solid material foundation for lasting peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation articulated by President Xi Jinping is a dream of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, which is consistent with the dream of the South Asian people. China is willing to peacefully coexist with our neighbors, including South Asian countries, on an equal footing, so that we are always good neighbors, good friends, and good partners.

The Chinese province geographically closest with countries to China's southwest, Yunnan has a population of 46 million people, and its GDP has reached a trillion Yuan. The province's relationship with South Asian countries dates back to the ancient times. The Chinese government fully supports Yunnan to be a bridge and link in China's further opening up to the southwest, and in promoting mutually beneficial cooperation and common development with South Asian countries.

The theme of this year's International Day of Peace – Education for Peace, designated by the United Nations, is highly relevant. The girl who won the Pakistan National Peace Award, Malala Yousafzai said, “If this new generation is not given pens, they will be given guns by terrorists.” The international community should make concerted efforts to educate our people, especially the younger generation, to cherish, safeguard, and promote peace, so that every corner of the world would be filled with the sunshine of peace. 

Education for Peace and Development



HAN QIDE

*Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC),
President of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD)*

Your Excellency, Vice-President Li Yuanchao,

Your Excellency, Speaker Ibrahim,
Your Excellency, Speaker Chowdhury
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

It gives me great pleasure to attend the commemoration event of the International Day of Peace 2013 & China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum. On behalf of the organizer, the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD), I would like to extend the warmest welcome to all distinguished guests!

The theme of this year's International Day of Peace is "Education for Peace", which is highly relevant and reflects China's consistent emphasis on education and the culture of peace over thousands of years. As early as 2300 years ago, the Book of Rites pointed out that "To build a country and govern a people, the most important thing is education." Imbedded in traditional Chinese peace culture, concepts like "peace is precious" have found their way into

people's hearts over the years and have shaped the mild character of the Chinese people who love peace and oppose war. The world we are living in today is basically stable, but regional conflicts and turmoil have never stopped. The root cause lies in backward or unbalanced development. Given the fundamental role of education in promoting development, countries should start with education to safeguard peace. Promoting education for development and peace has become the common aspiration of people around the world including China and South Asia.

Poverty is an important root cause for conflict and war. According to relevant UN statistics, between 2004 and 2009, the average death toll due to wars and terrorist incidents every year was 55,000. By the end of 2012 the number of refugees worldwide reached 45.2 million. The conflicts mainly happened in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, which also had the largest number of refugees. The Global Poverty Report of the World Bank shows that there are 1.2

billion people living in abject poverty worldwide, among whom 414 million live in sub-Saharan Africa and over 500 million in South Asia. A survey with over 700 ordinary Afghans by Oxfam of UK found out that 70% of respondents believed that the cause of the civil war was not the Taliban but poverty and unemployment. To prevent conflicts and wars and to build a better world, the fact that there are only a small number of developed countries but vast number of poor and backward countries must be changed. It is an important task for governments and people everywhere to reduce poverty and narrow the South-North divide.

Education is the fundamental way out of poverty and backwardness. Poverty is closely related to backward education. According to relevant UN statistics, there are 800 million illiterate adults; and at least 72 million school age children have not been enrolled, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and the Middle East. Among them, around 400 million illiterate people are in the Afri-

can continent, accounting for 60% of the African population. The top 10 countries in terms of illiteracy are all in Africa, which are also the most impoverished countries. High illiteracy rate and poor level of education can seriously affect the quality of the workforce and constrain economic and social development. Education is a fundamental driving force for development. It can greatly elevate moral and cultural qualities of the people to create a skilled and efficient workforce and to nurture a number of high-caliber social management personnel. Education is also what is needed for rounded development of the person. It helps to improve the cognitive level, satisfy the basic needs, enrich the emotional world and lay the foundation for personal happiness. Therefore, education is the basic requirement for equality, justice and fair opportunities. It is a basic human right and the foundation for economic and social development. Education promotes development, and development promotes peace. Education and peace are closely linked.

China's rapid development is also a result of synchronous educational development. Since the founding of New China, and especially since the launch of the reform and opening-up in 1978, China has realized rapid and sustained economic growth to become the second largest economy in the world and lifted over 200 million people out of poverty. A big contributor for all these achievements is education. China has given long-term priority to education and boasts the largest education system in the world, with in-campus students of 260 million. The free nine-year compulsory education has covered both the urban and rural areas. All school-age children can get basic education, making the thousand-year old dream of "education for all" come true. Higher education has entered the era of popularization. The progress of education has greatly improved quality of the people. A young generation equipped with knowledge and skills has become the mainstay of the new labor force. Education has played an irreplaceable role for techno-

logical innovation, cultural prosperity, economic development, social progress and livelihood improvement. However, there is still room for improvement to train professionals urgently needed for economic and social development and to meet people's expectations for getting ever better education. China still has a long way to go in terms of educational development.


The pursuit of peace and development calls for stronger international exchanges on education. Education is an important means for delivering social culture. Educational exchanges can promote mutual understanding and integration of different cultures. China is committed to international cooperation on education. It has established Confucius Institutes in over 100 countries and sent over 8000 Chinese language teachers and volunteers abroad every year, who have been welcomed by governments and different social sectors. China has also become the biggest source of overseas students. From 1978 to 2011, it has sent altogether 2.2451 million students abroad. Chinese overseas students have become a bond for increasing understanding and friendship with people of other countries. At the same time, China has also become an important recipient of foreign students, with 7% of overseas students of the world studying in China. South Asian students such as those from Nepal and Sri Lanka have become envoys promoting exchanges between the Chinese culture and South Asian cultures. The Chinese culture believes that "Do not do to others what you would not have them do to you"; Indian culture has values of "The Brahman and me are one" and of peaceful coexistence. The Buddhist culture advocates equality for all and calls for giving up evils for goodness. The Islamic culture is endowed with ideas of pursuing peace and tolerance. All these ideas are shining with the lights of loving life and pursuing peace. We call on developed countries to help poor countries to improve the educational and cultural levels for the whole mankind and to promote common development. We believe that mutual learning and mutual

enhancement of different cultures will vigorously promote peace and progress of mankind.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

An important purpose of CPAPD is to conduct peace education, since we are deeply aware of the fact that peace and education are mutually reinforcing and attributable. Since 1989, together with our partners, we have held 24 events of the "Week of International Science and Peace", implanting in people's hearts the concept of "using science to benefit mankind and filling the world with peace". The CPAPD has conducted exchanges and cooperation of various forms with over 300 peace organizations in over 90 countries. I myself visited India in 2009 and felt the importance of peace and education for South Asia. On multilateral forums like NGO meetings of the UN, the CPAPD has also advocated world multi-polarization, respect for cultural diversity, peaceful settlement of international disputes, and the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons, etc., thus contributing our due part for building a peaceful and prosperous world.

Today, after experiencing untold vicissitudes, both China and South Asian countries have embarked on the road of national renewal, while holding beautiful dreams for the future. I believe that the Chinese dream and the dreams of South Asian countries are interrelated. I sincerely hope that in the following high-level dialogue and the four sub-forums, all of you present will contribute ideas on promoting peace through education, promoting regional stability, carrying out practical cooperation and deepening political mutual trust. Let's promote peaceful development and friendly cooperation between China and South Asia, safeguard lasting peace between us, facilitate mutually beneficial cooperation and contribute to common development!

Thank you. 



LI JIHENG

Governor of Yunnan Province

H.E.Mr.Li Yuanchao, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Vice President of People's Republic of China,

H.E.Mr.Han Qide, Vice Chairman of the CPPCC National Committee and President of the CPAPD,

H.E. Ibrahimi, Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People) National Assembly of Afghanistan,

H.E.Dr.Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament, Respected guests,

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

Good morning!

As the old saying goes, it is always a pleasure to greet a friend from afar. Today, friends of different countries gather in the beautiful Spring City of Kunming in this golden autumn for the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2013 & China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum. Hereby, on behalf of the Yunnan Provincial Committee of the CPC, the People's Government of Yunnan Province and the 46.59 million people of all ethnic groups in Yunnan, I'd like to extend our warm congratulations on the inauguration of the event. I would also like to express sincere gratitude to Vice President Mr. Li Yuanchao and Vice Chairman Mr. Han Qide for attending this ceremony out of your busy schedule. Meanwhile, I would also like to extend our sincere welcome to the distinguished guests and dear friends present here.

Located in the southwest China and

linked to Southeast Asia and South Asia by land, Yunnan Province is geographically close to Southeast Asian and South Asian countries, and shares close blood ties, cultural kinship, interwoven business opportunities and the interacting benefits together with these countries. Witnessing the long standing and well developed friendly exchanges, Yunnan had been acting as the strategic passage along the Southern Silk Road since 2,400 years ago, playing a significant role during the exchanges between China and South Asian countries in terms of people, culture and goods. About 600 years ago, the famous navigator Zheng He, a native of Yunnan, led seven voyages to the west Pacific and Indian Ocean countries, including Maldives, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka of today, which passed on the peaceful idea of keeping peace and harmony among all the countries, and carried forward the immortal spirit of cementing peaceful relations by upholding good faith. This Commemoration of International Day of Peace held in Yunnan not only reflects Yunnan people's best wishes for the harmonious development and peaceful coexistence in the world, but also embodies the aspirations of Yunnan people for peace, development, cooperation and win-win fruits.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Since the 1990s, along with the regional economic integration, Yunnan has witnessed increasing cooperation and exchanges with South Asian countries.

State leaders of South Asian countries, including India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal, have paid visits to Yunnan. Leaders of Yunnan also led delegations of goodwill, business and trade to South Asian countries, which have earnestly promoted cooperation in various fields. In terms of interconnectivity, Yunnan has been actively facilitating the multi-element transport network linking China with South Asia. In Yunnan, domestic roads have generally been upgraded, railways are under accelerated construction, and air routes from Kunming to cities like Dhaka, Kathmandu, Calcutta, Colombo, Male and so on have enjoyed the rather high seat occupancy. With regard to the fields of education, culture, economy and trade, and tourism, cooperative MOUs have been signed by universities in Yunnan and the South Asian countries, aiming at partnerships in school-building and cooperative research mechanism. Academic research institutes in Yunnan have established cooperative relations with their counterparts in countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, and Nepal. At present, over 1,000 overseas students from the South Asian countries are attending universities in Yunnan and the South Asia School has been established. Yunnan has held many tourism and cultural exchanges and promotion activities in South Asian cities, including New Delhi, Mumbai, Colombo, etc., which has resulted in the increase of mutual tourist arrivals for consecutive years.

Such people to people exchanges in various fields and diversified forms make the inter-regional friendly exchanges so brilliant.

In recent years, favourable news have been pouring in Yunnan and the South Asian countries with regard to friendly cooperation. Thanks to the joint efforts, South Asian Countries Trade Fair, which had been successfully run for 5 years, has been upgraded to China-South Asia Exposition, an annual platform for exchanges in terms of trade, investment, tourism and culture. During June 6th-10th 2013, the 1st China-South Asia Exposition and the 21st Kunming Trade Fair have been successfully held in Kunming, with a total foreign trade value of US\$17.466 billion and a total investment for domestic cooperation of 537.8 billion yuan. Last year and this year witness the Kunming-Calcutta road investigation across four countries and the Calcutta-Kunming Car Rally across four countries, which marks a historic step towards mutual trust, further cooperation and interconnectivity. In May, 2013, during his visit to India, H.E. Mr. Li Keqiang, Chinese Premier, together with H.E. Mr. Singh, Prime Minister of India, jointly initiated the BCIM Economic Corridor, upgrading the regional cooperation into an inter-governmental level. This is not only the cooperation among four countries, but also a fresh start of deeper integration and cooperation between regions. We are very convinced that more consensus and blueprints will surely lead us to wider cooperation and exchanges!

Ladies and gentlemen,

Peace and development are the themes of today's world. The flower of peace needs to be nurtured by cooperation and development. Together we live in the earth village featuring economic globalization, political multi-polarization, and technological digitalization, we acknowledge that the foundation of our relations with South Asian countries lies in the mutual respect, equal treatment, friendly neighbourliness, mutual benefit and win-win results. We would like to suggest both sides to enhance mutual trust and

deepen friendship and cooperation.

First, mutually beneficial cooperation should be intensified. Nowadays, world economy is still in the process of profound adjustment, and uncertainties are still clouding the global economic recovery. Asian countries have created so many miracles of growth. However, it is still a long way to go to improve the imbalanced development, promote growth and improve livelihoods. China and South Asian countries share similar development goals and missions, so it is our common goal in our mutual interest to forge friendship, maintain stability, enhance cooperation and promote development. Sticking to the principles of giving full play to the advantages, highlighting priorities and taking the lead, we'd like to suggest both sides intensify the pragmatic cooperation in fields of complementarities or urgency, such as energy, economy and trade, agriculture, pharmacy, IT, tourism, etc.. Pursuing the cooperation in a longer run, Yunnan and South Asian countries have to trust each other and deepen the cooperation. Seeking a fruitful cooperation, we have to be bold in practicing with one heart and one mind so as to enlarge our cooperation "cake".


Second, interconnectivity should be facilitated. In pursuance of closer economic bonds, deeper cooperation and wider-range development, we need to improve all-round communications, in terms of policy, transport, trade and people-to-people exchanges. This year, the success of Calcutta-Kunming Four Country Car Rally illustrates the ancient Chinese philosophy that he who would climb the ladder must begin at the bottom. We need to actively explore the interconnectivity in fields of highway, railway, aviation, and telecommunications and so on, and promote the customs facilitation, so as to boost the smooth cooperation in all fields with convenient transport and telecommunications. Over 2,000 years ago, our ancestors started friendly exchanges and economic and commercial cooperation. Today, under the umbrella of world peace and development, we are now in a better position

to collaborate with South Asian countries in the course of modern Silk Road building and make it a road of goodwill, cooperation and development for China and South Asian countries.

Third, the people-to-people and cultural exchanges should be enhanced. This International Day of Peace bears a theme of "education for peace and cooperation for win-win", which voices the common wishes of the people in this region. As the old Chinese saying goes, "a successful diplomacy depends on the friendly and harmonious relations between the two people", which implies that the harmony between the peoples is the cornerstone of friendly exchanges between the countries. As the future of the world, the youth should become the peace messenger. With regard to people-to-people and cultural exchanges, the education cooperation and exchanges are significant. Taking the opportunity of this event, parties concerned may arouse the attention to inter-regional educational and cultural exchanges again. Meanwhile, interaction and exchanges among the youth, think tanks, media and social groups should be further intensified, so as to carry out cooperation in wider fields of culture, science and technology, health and environmental protection in pursuance of mutual understanding and support between countries and the people through more positive gestures of cooperation and confidence.

Distinguished guests, dear friends,

Today we get together here on the beautiful land of Yunnan to spread the idea of peace and deliberate over matters concerning harmonious development. Down the ages, Mr. Zheng He acted as a messenger of whom the people of China, especially Yunnan feel proud, making China and South Asia closer. Today, Yunnan Province is willing to serve as a bridge and bond of friendly cooperation between China and South Asian countries in order to carry on friendship, deepen cooperation and seek for development. I believe the seeds of hope we sow today will surely yield countless fruits tomorrow!

Thank you! 



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL --- MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 21 September 2013

BAN KI-MOON

Secretary General of the United Nations

I congratulate the Chinese People's Association of Peace and Disarmament and the UN system in China for commemorating this day by engaging organizations from South Asia. Such dialogue is crucial for advancing progress on the interlinked issues of peace, security and economic cooperation.

The International Day of Peace is a time for reflection – a day when we reiterate our belief in non-violence and call for a global ceasefire. We ask people everywhere to observe a minute of silence, at noon local time, to honour those killed in conflict and the survivors who live with daily trauma and pain.

This year we are highlighting Education for Peace. Education is vital for fostering global citizenship and building

peaceful societies.


In June, Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani schoolgirl targeted for assassination by the Taliban for campaigning for the right to education, came to the United Nations. Malala said: “One teacher, one book, one pen, can change the world.” These are our most powerful weapons.

That is why, last year, I launched the Global Education First Initiative. Every girl and every boy deserves to receive a quality education and learn the values that will help them to see themselves as part of a global community.

Governments and development partners are working to get every child in school and learning well to equip them for life in the 21st century. There is new momentum in countries with the greatest needs, such as those affected by conflict,

which are home to half of all children lacking education. But we must do more – much more. Fifty-seven million children are still denied an education. Millions more need better schooling.

Educating the poorest and most marginalized children will require bold political leadership and increased financial commitment. Yet aid for education has dropped for the first time in a decade. We must reverse this decline, forge new partnerships, and bring much greater attention to the quality of education.

On this International Day of Peace, let us pledge to teach our children the value of tolerance and mutual respect. Let us invest in the schools and teachers that will build a fair and inclusive world that embraces diversity. Let us fight for peace and defend it with all our might. 



RENATA DESSALLIEN

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, China

Honorable Vice-President Li Yuanchao, Honorable CPAPD President Han Qide, Honorable Governor of Yunnan Province Li Jiheng, Honorable State Leaders and Distinguished Guests from South Asian countries, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen and friends,

A very good morning to all of you!

I'm so delighted and grateful that we have all gathered to commemorate the International Day of Peace in Kunming, the City of Eternal Spring and gateway to the ancient Silk Road. I would like to thank the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament for their diligent promotion of peace all year long and especially for their partnership in organizing this special event each year for Peace Day. My sincere thanks also go to the Kunming and Yunnan government authorities for their wonderful arrangements and gracious hospitality, and warm thanks to our visiting dignitaries from South Asia, who have journeyed far to be with us today. Finally, I thank each of you for joining us on this special day.

For the past thirty years, people around the world have come together each year on the International Day of Peace to reflect on the value of peace and how we can contribute more to peace, both in our own lives and in the world around us.

The theme for today's celebration is "Education for Peace", as the United Nations continues to promote the broader role of education in cultivating peace and global citizenship. It reminds us that it is not enough for our schools to teach our children how to read, write and count. Education also has to help children understand and accept differences, to cultivate

respect, to share, and to develop feelings and instincts toward building a more just, inclusive and peaceful world.

Of course when the UN talks of education for peace, we are not just thinking of children. In the school of peace, we are all students. And all of us must work hard to be better students in this school. This starts with valuing peace more, and taking a more proactive role in spreading peace and protecting peace when it is threatened, in our own lives and in the world around us.


The observance of the International Day of Peace provides a valuable opportunity for us to assess our performance in the school of peace, and to resolve to do more. It reminds us that in our current day and age of immense scientific progress and global development, peace is still a fragile dove, vulnerable to mankind's persistent self-absorbed narrow-mindedness, violence and aggression. It reminds us that our precious dove still needs much more care and protection. It reminds us that conflicts can only be solved in a sustainable manner if we address the root causes; and that these root causes often relate to unfairness, injustice, poverty and inequality, disempowerment, disrespect, and a "me and mine" attitude rather than a "we and our" mindset.

Today's observation of the International Day of Peace is very special because it unites China with many South Asian countries. I spent most of my professional life working for the UN in South and South-East Asia, so it means a great deal to me personally. Each country in this region was built on ancient civilizations, inspired by the world's great religions and philosophies that remind us that peace begins at home,

in the most intimate recesses of our hearts. Many countries represented here are doing great things for peace both at home and as proud contributors to global peace. The world's foremost troop contributing countries to UN Peacekeeping Operations are from this region: Pakistan, Bangladesh, India and Nepal. And of course, China is the largest contributor of the UN Security Council permanent members.

With such a wealth of ancient wisdom and commitment to peace gathered in this room today, we are well placed to raise the bar in our peace endeavours, and to imagine better ways to achieve deeper, lasting peace. We are also well placed to infuse past and present experience into the global multilateral arena. After all, the tectonic plates of geopolitical power are gradually shifting, and many say the shift is back to Asia. An Asian century is a wonderful prospect indeed, but only if it makes for a better century than the ones that preceded it. And, I personally believe, that a better Asian Century can only be realized if Asia infuses its domestic, regional and global interactions with its values of peace, compassion and human dignity. Wouldn't it be marvelous if the Asian Century came to be known as the century of deep and lasting global peace! There is no good reason why this cannot be. All the resources for a peaceful Asian Century are at our disposal. The only real obstacle is old and narrow habits of thinking and response.

In closing, let us all resolve to be better students in the school of peace, so that our homes and neighborhoods, our countries and regions, our 21st century are all peaceful.

I wish you all a very meaningful and inspiring International Day of Peace! 



ABDUL RAOUF IBRAHIMI

*Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People)
National Assembly of Afghanistan*

In the name of God,
Hon. Speakers, Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good Morning,

Peace and living in peace is not only the desire of all human beings today but yesterday and tomorrow as well because the secret behind prosperity and welfare of humanity lies in peace.

War is a phenomenon that has brought nothing but destruction and misery and cannot provide happy life to human being. When the right to live is taken from human being, it can not be revitalized. Despite individual suffering, war leaves a large number of widows, orphans, and disables which remains a burden for years.

The war is mostly due to the selfishness and greed but against such war, rightful attempts have also been taken.

Dear friends!

I am delighted to join you in today's conference of peace hosted by China, our neighboring country.

The agenda of this conference is education for peace and mutual cooperation which is an objective of our countries in the region. I think this agenda is very

important for us, our MPs and people of Afghanistan in current situation compared to other nations; our people have suffered many years of war and unfortunately still are involved in this phenomenon. Therefore every single person of my nation, men, women and children are striving for peace. Dear friends, please allow me to convey the greetings and best wishes of my fellow MPs in the delegations and all people of Afghanistan.

Dear colleagues,

As you know better, when the former Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, our people begin to legitimately defend their homeland. The war was raging in Afghanistan and it is still continuing so far that takes the lives of our people on a daily basis.

No criteria and principles are followed by the opponents during the conflicts in our country, where most of the civilians are victims and we have lots of civilian casualties as a result of suicide attacks and street mines and most of the casualties include women and children.

Despite the peaceful efforts of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and establishing of the High Peace Council,

the opponents have continued their cruelty and their inhuman behavior killing and torturing our innocent civilians.

You know better that as a result of the Bonn Agreement, valuable steps were taken to relieve the suffering of poor people and with the help of international community, our people got to choose and determine their destiny themselves, which guided us to move toward a peaceful, stable and better future from the adversity of war.

One of the important characteristics of the Bonn conference was recognizing the contributions of ethnic groups as well as political parties in power, which got implemented too.

As political programs such as interim government, the transitional government, the approval of the constitution and the last but not the least presidential and parliamentary elections were scheduled.

Following Bonn conference, the most prominent examples of such global consensus are the international conferences in Tokyo, Berlin, London and Paris which were held to help Afghanistan in the reconstruction process and other problems.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You all know that the transferring security responsibility from international forces to Afghan forces is on its fifth and final stage.

Now all military operations and disposal of enemies all across the country are done by our own Afghan forces.

Our public concern is continuing foreign interference and the safe nest of opponents outside the borders of Af-

ghanistan.

Our people fear that after the withdrawal of international forces from the country, the lack of equipments of Afghan armed forces, and foreign interference will vanish our achievements of last ten years such as having an elected president, elected parliament, precious constitution, committed media, values for women's rights and their participation, and other social and civil freedoms.

And once again Afghanistan will become a battlefield or a trouble for the globe.

Therefore we, rather than other countries are in dire need for peace and can understand the worries of other countries about instability.

The event of 9/11 which the horror shocked the globe and the collapse of WTC were also a result of the fact that Afghanistan was a terrorist nest.

Thus peace is a need of humanity.

The roots of war is not limited to a particular region or geographical area so it is needed to timely pervasive the peace, in order to get a conducive result for human across the world.

We want peace as well as your kind cooperation for ensuring peace in our country.

Respected participants!

Human being is a logical creature and has to be able to solve problems in ways other than war and violence. Many of the battles that took place today, under the name of ensuring peace, security and stability, are not justified.

It is very necessary to turn rough ideas into peaceful and flexible approaches

and war ideas have to be limited, so no doubt it requires grabbing global commonalities and reducing differences or conflicts from human societies.

Peace in human society is not a single concept and can be defined from different perspectives.

Unfortunately, today peace is defined from different political positions.

The favored peace of a powerful country differs from the peace that a poor nation wants for keeping its integrity and independence.

The meaning of peace in modern world of today is creating conditions free of any kind of anxiety and tension.

And living relaxed is the basic right of every human being.


Afghanistan by joining to international community as well as majority conventions and international agreements has found its place as a peace loving country.

Fortunately friend country People's Republic of China, as a good neighbor, and economic as well as political power has always had good relation with Afghanistan.

Recently, a strategic agreement was signed between China and Afghanistan which parliament will approve in near future too.

We are together in peace education, we need your cooperation and call upon you to helping us in ensuring peace; the dire need of today's human being.

Hope to live together with peace, away from war.

I thank you very much for the kind attention. 



DR. SHIRIN SHARMIN CHAUDHURY

Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great honour and very special pleasure for me to be here in this beautiful city of Kunming, the city of eternal spring, at this auspicious occasion to commemorate the International Day of Peace, 2013. I take this opportunity to congratulate the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon for dedicating this year's International Day of Peace to "Peace Education". We join in celebrating this day focusing on the theme "Education for Peace: Cooperation for Win-Win Outcome: Common Aspiration of the People of the Region". I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of China and the people of China for their warm hospitality. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD) for inviting me to take part in this celebration.

Peace education is an integral com-

ponent of creating a violence free and peaceful world. Peace education, seen as a process of acquiring values and knowledge that is instrumental in promoting fraternity, moral values, respect for human rights and fostering tolerance can nurture a socioeconomic and political milieu of peace. Peace education aiming to help develop attitudes, skills and behaviour to live in harmony, promote non-violence, find amicable conflict resolution, tolerance of diversity, social cohesion, and gender equality embodies the universal principles of peace. Education for Peace not only denotes the notion of teaching how to read and write but embraces wider connotation of fostering global citizenship by cultivating mutual respect and promoting inclusiveness.

Distinguished Delegates,

It is the common aspiration of the people of the region to live in peace and harmony and to live with human dignity. Eradicating poverty, ensuring human development through fulfilment

of basic necessities, such as education, health care and social protection are essential tenets of attaining a decent life. Challenges of poverty eradication, employment generation, gender equality, sustainable environment must be met by adoption of appropriate policy, planning and strategic measures. Peace education can help unearth the social injustices embedded within any social structure and build regional understanding. Peace education can be a catalyst in meeting these challenges and achieving the common aspiration.

Education is an important tool for national development. It is a mode of transforming human resource into human capital and building a knowledge-based economy and society.

Bangladesh attaches high priority to education as a key instrument of national development. National Education Policy 2010 has been formulated to create educational opportunity for all, reduce dropout rate and provide quality education. Bangladesh has made remarkable achievement in attaining gender parity in enrolment at primary and secondary education and meeting MDGs. Distribution of free textbooks and providing stipend, particularly to 75% female students have contributed to this process. To promote ICT in education, computers, laptops are being distributed in educational institutions throughout the country. Multimedia and internet connection has also been introduced. Steps have been taken to train teachers in new curriculum development and other areas for ensuring quality education.

Distinguished Participants,

Cooperation is fundamental to ensure a win-win outcome. Regional dialogue on issues of common interest and cooperation in areas of trade, investment, ICT sectors constitute favourable environment for interdependence. Cooperation can be strengthened in areas of agriculture, education, commerce, culture and tourism. It is important to stress the need for enhancing regional connectivity and people to people interaction. Regional advocacy to set up

decision making processes, framing issues to build regional understanding and responsibility are essential for constituting the bedrock of regional peace.

In order for Peace Education to play a contributory role in the process of ensuring peace and win-win outcome, it ought to embrace 'social cohesion' and 'elimination of inequality'.

Excellencies,

Bangladesh and China enjoys longstanding friendship. Over the last few decades, Bangladesh-China relationship has moved from strength to strength. Sino-Bangladesh relations are informed by five principles: peaceful coexistence, spirit of good neighbourliness, mutual trust, confidence and non-interference in internal affairs. A plethora of bilateral agreements have been signed between Bangladesh and China that range from economic engagements, soft loan, social and cultural exchange, and academic interaction. We greatly appreciate and welcome Chinese Government's cooperation and investment in development of physical infrastructure to facilitate regional connectivity. Both countries enjoy a close comprehensive partnership of cooperation. It is profoundly believed that this partnership will flourish manifold in the coming years.

China's "Gateway Policy" under which Yunnan is playing a pioneering role, has opened up new doors of linkages between China and South Asia enhancing possibilities of people to people interaction. The strategic choice of Peaceful Development declared by China is a testimony of China's commitment to regional development.


Bangladesh, situated between two emerging economic blocks, ASEAN on the east and SAARC on the west holds great potentials for itself and its neighbours. Bangladesh, a country having strategic geographical location, human resource comprising of young population, democratic governance, market accessibility, attractive incentive features for investment and business, 6% GDP growth over last few years and vibrant economy is on the way to emerge

as "middle income country" and top the list of Next 11 after BRICS. Having support from South Asian countries, particularly, from China, in investment and technology, will further accelerate the process and much more can be achieved through transformation of our economies, creating a win-win situation for all, generating greater benefit for the region.

The Parliamentary Friendship Group in Bangladesh Parliament comprises of an important component, Bangladesh China Parliamentary Friendship Group, formed in December 2010 with 11 members. There has been fruitful exchange visits between the members of both Parliaments, signifying strong ties of friendship.

Excellencies,

It is the "common aspiration of the people of the region" that ought to be brought to the forefront to capture the real essence of regional cooperation and understanding. "Peace begins with a smile," quoted by Mother Teresa. Moving towards greater regional integration and solidarity requires taking account of collective identities, interests and diversity, identifying the commonalities, finding solutions to the common problems and facilitating space for constructive dialogue and cooperation. Regional order perceived as "social construction" is primarily based on "shared ideas". In order to ensure win-win outcomes, it is important that regional cooperation be founded on regional consciousness and understanding. It must draw together diverse community, enhance people centric development, reflect true aspiration of people and be construed to protect and promote common good.

Let us all come together and join hands in building regional cooperation and fostering regional governance that is equitable, sustainable and inclusive. 



U NANDA KYAW SWA

Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Honored Guests,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor for me being with you in attending the Commemoration of International Day of Peace 2013 in Kunming, the People's Republic of China.

I wish to thank Mr. Li Yuanchao, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and leaders from Kunming for their attendances and addresses delivered at this ceremony.

I also would like to thank Mr. Han Qide, President of the CPAPD (China People's Association for Peace and Development) and Vice-Chairman for his efforts to hold this commemoration and forum in cooperation with the UN organization in the People's Republic of China.

Honored Guests and Delegates,

In accord with the theme of Education for Peace that mentioned in the Message of Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the UN sent in advance of hundred days to the International Day of Peace 2013, we have to make efforts to educate the youth, future generation, to appreciate and enjoy the true sense of peace.

Indeed it is an honor for me to have an opportunity to attend such a very

meaningful commemoration as the representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. It is the second time for Myanmar to attend the ceremony of International Day of Peace. In 2012, as the representative of Myanmar, His Excellency U Khin Aung Myint, Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw (the Upper House of Myanmar) attended, and therefore, I U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (the Parliament) and Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw (the Lower House of Myanmar).

I would like to brief the meeting the recent development in my country which has been carrying out democratic transformation process. Over the last 2 years of the process we have been facing many challenges and issues. In this process we have been facing many challenges and issues. In this process achieving internal peace has been the most important part and it has been the fundamental requirement to development of entire people.


To achieve internal peace and success in democratic transformation, there have been concerted efforts of the President of Myanmar, Speakers of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. And also there have been cooperation with UN, International organizations, IPU (Inter-

Parliamentary Union), AIPA (ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly) INGOs and NGOs. We have already had cease-fire agreements with 14 armed groups and internal peace will be expanded through-out the country in the near future with intention to all round development, including education and health of the people.

Honored Guests and Delegates,

We have emphasized the development of health and education and introduced free compulsory primary education. We have provided additional hospitals with doctors and health services by ourselves with increasing budget allotments to education and health attach an importance to the stability and sustainable peace as the basis of the social development as par international level.

It is our expectation that this Commemoration of International Day of Peace will contribute towards implementation of the Millenniums Development Goals as mentioned Sustainable Peace for Sustainable Future in the message of Mr. Ban Ki-Moon in his message of international Peace Day 2012, and also towards intellectually and culturally development of you.

Thank you very much. 



RAMESH NATH PANDY

Former Foreign Minister of Nepal

It is a great pleasure to be here in Kunming on this happy occasion of the International Day of Peace which is observed around the world on September 21st. I would like to thank the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament for this kind invitation extended to me to be here in this historic and beautiful city. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. Kunming's hosting of this event shows China's total commitment to world peace and understanding, her contribution to the peaceful resolution of all conflicts and China's efforts to support developing countries be it in Africa, Asia or Latin America.

Our region- South Asia has specially benefited from China's economic assistance, understanding and political support. All eight countries of SAARC enjoy excellent relations with China as we expand our historic relations into trade, investment, tourism and other areas. China is also an Observer of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) which in its 13th Summit decided to invite China to be an integral part of this regional grouping taking into consideration its growing role and influence in South Asia. It is my satisfaction for the role that I played as Foreign Minister of Nepal at that his-

toric SAARC Summit in 2005.


The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by resolution 36/37 of the United Nations General Assembly to coincide with its opening session, which was held annually on the third Tuesday of September. The first Peace Day was observed in September 1982. The United Nations invites all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace.

Unfortunately, despite the lofty goals enshrined in the UN Charter and its objectives of world peace, the International strategic environment is far from satisfactory. Traditional and non-traditional forms of insecurity continue to affect internal stability of nation states while some nations continue to interfere in the internal affairs of Independent countries without learning lessons from their past misjudgements. We the peace-loving people of Nepal for example, after suffering from a decade of insurgency are still struggling to draft a forward looking constitution for ourselves despite 7 years of political instability. China's help during those days when I was in Government or now in a different environment has been exemplary and this is a perfect testimony of the affection, cordiality and harmonious relations that it enjoys at the commonman's level in Nepal. I am sure, the same holds true in

other smaller countries of South Asia where change in governments and political systems has not affected China's relations with these countries. Sino-Nepal relations can be a good example of relations between a big and a smaller neighbor anywhere in the world.

Excellencies, it has been said that the destiny has already been proclaimed for Asia and South Asia has been termed as a robust, economically vibrant, politically important region of the contemporary world. Better road, rail and air connectivity between South Asia and China, increased flow of students, tourists, investors, businesspersons, and frequent to and fro high level visits will take our relations from heights to heights. South Asian countries and China gain mutually if there is deeper interaction between us in the fields of education, tourism, energy, investment, trade, climate change and disaster management. It is already taking place and I am particularly happy that Kunming is emerging as a gateway of China to South Asia. I am optimistic that we will mutually gain from this new strategic relations that we are building multi-laterally through events and conferences such as this.

Allow me to once again thank the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament for this kind invitation to be here with all of you.

Thank You! 



MURTAZA JAVED ABBASI

Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan

The Members of the Afghanistan Delegation,
Our Honorable Hosts from the Chinese Communist Party,
Fellow Parliamentarians,
Excellences, Ladies and Gentleman!

And Good Morning!

It is a matter of privilege and honor for me to address and attend this august High-level Dialogue with the theme “Converging Wisdom and Consensus-Promoting New Development for China-South Asia Relation”.

On the very outset, I would like to present my heartiest felicitations and gratitude to the Chinese Communist Party for the excellent arrangements in facilitating this high level dialogue. I am sure this dialogue will prove instrumental in the days ahead, specifically in achieving our common objectives.

Cordial China South-Asia relationship is a pre-requisite for regional progress and prosperity. Promoting new ideas for China-South Asia relationship is in the interests of all stake-holders. South Asia is the meeting point of civilizations and has critical importance because of its geo-strategic location. China on the other hand due to its economic development holds great importance in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

China, being the fastest growing economy has ample opportunities in the South Asian Region. The eight developing nations of South Asia have great potential to carry out trade with China which can be mutually beneficial. South Asia is also the gateway which connects Arabian Peninsula with China. Improved ties between China and South Asia can widen the ambit of trade between China and the oil-rich Middle East.

China is also the largest investor in Pakistan’s deep-water port at Gwadar. In the long-term, our two countries will connect Kashgar to Gwadar. Major portion of China’s oil comes from the Gulf. Gwadar would reduce the distance to 2500 kilometers.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

In today’s world our problems are same and we can only overcome them with collective effort and united approaches. Pakistan strongly believes in the promise of multilateralism. States can achieve more mutually than they can individually. The more we co-operate the more space for unilateral action is reduced. Cooperation does not mean uniformity or conformity. It signifies harmony, tolerance and respect for diversity. We have tried it in our domestic politics and found it holding great promise. We believe it also holds great promise in inter-state relations.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

We represent our respective parliaments. The best place to promote ideals of development is parliament. Parliaments represent the free will and aspirations of their electorate. The Presiding Officers and legislatures can help in bringing the nations of the region to a common agenda for peace, prosperity and development. These chambers are best placed to push for pro-people agenda by invoking the dictums of Parliamentary oversight and Parliamentary diplomacy. We must therefore, work in conformity for creating understanding and building confidence.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The evils of separatism, terrorism and extremism are main obstacles in a meaningful development of China-South Asia relationship. Pakistan will continue and adhere to its

one China Policy in combating these three evils.

My nation firmly believes in peace. We have rendered innumerable sacrifices for peace and stability of the region as well as of the world. We therefore, expect from our friends to support us, not to blame us, work with us and not to work against us.

Pakistan is deeply indebted to China for its historic and time tested friendship. We have stood by each other and our future generation will take this legacy forward.

Ladies and Gentlemen!


This is the example we wish to replicate with all our neighbors. There is an old saying “You can choose your friend but you have to live with your neighbors”. We therefore, wish and aspire for a peaceful, friendly, non-interfering and cooperative neighborhood.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am pleased to note some important landmarks which include a historic visit by Chinese premier to Pakistan and the visit of my leader Nawaz Sharif to China.

The visit of President Karzai and his meeting with Pakistani leadership last month was a key step towards creating better understanding. Such regular contacts at the highest level are instrumental for meaningful cooperation. Regional cooperation and regional stability are one of the top priorities of our new government.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Pakistan is looking forward to this visit of China and trilateral interaction among the legislators. This interaction of legislatures will help in advancing the agenda of development in the South Asia-China Relationship. 



QIU HE

*Deputy Secretary of
the CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee*

Ladies and gentlemen,
Friends,

Good morning! Entrusted by Mr. Qin Guangrong, Secretary of the CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Yunnan Provincial People's Congress, and Mr. Li Jiheng, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee and Governor of Yunnan Provincial People's Government, it is a great honour for me to talk and exchange ideas with you on cooperation and development on behalf of the CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee.

In light of the latest developments in the international and regional situations, the second stage of High-level Dialogue will focus on the theme of "New Ideas for Pragmatic Cooperation between China and South Asia". This round of talks will, I believe, contribute to the fruitful results of this forum.

Today's world is undergoing profound and complex changes, but peace and development remain the themes of our era. With the global multi-polarization and economic globalization intensifying, culture turns more diversified, and society informatization becomes even

more advanced. Information technology has, more than anything else, changed the world, shortened distances in time and space, and thus reduced the costs in these regards. Our planet is now a village, where the entire humanity lives; the nation is a family, of which everyone is a member; and the city is a home, where everyone is a citizen. No country or region can stand separate from the rest of the world and develop alone. Therefore, it has become a strong consensus for different countries to strengthen regional cooperation and seek and promote common development.

The frequent exchange between China and South Asia dates far back in history. As early as in the Chinese Han Dynasty [202 BCE-220 CE], there had been three routes linking China and South Asia—the Road across the Western Regions, Yunnan-Myanmar Road, and Route on the South China Sea. Located in the conjunction area of East Asia, Southeast Asia and the South Asian Sub-continent, Yunnan is the geographical centre of Asia, and Kunming, its provincial capital, is the hub within five hours' flight distance to major Asian countries and

the junction of international arteries including the north-south Trans-Asian Railway and the east-west New Eurasian Continental Bridge connecting the continents of Asia, Africa and Europe, as well as the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans. The province shares borders of 4,061 kilometres with Vietnam, the Laos and Myanmar and neighbours nine other ASEAN countries and eight South Asian countries. Thanks to its unique geo-advantage, Yunnan has become a transit hub for routes linking China to South Asia. The Southern Silk Road, the Ancient Tea Horse Road, the world-renowned Stilwell Road, "the Hump", and the China-India Pipeline have linked Yunnan closely to South Asia.

Standing at a new starting point, the Central People's Government of China has adhered to the diplomatic policies of "being a good neighbour and partner" and of "building an amicable, secure and prosperous neighbourhood" and strived to strengthen high-level exchanges, economic cooperation and cultural communication with South Asian countries. In May 2013, Mr. Li Keqiang, Premier of China, paid a successful official visit

to India and Pakistan and put forward a joint proposal with India on the construction of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor. In June of the same year, the First China-South Asia Expo was successfully held in Kunming, Yunnan. As required by the Central People's Government of China, Yunnan is stepping up its transformation into a bridgehead for China's opening up to the southwest and committed to strengthening the exchanges, ties and cooperation with Southern Asian countries.

Pragmatic cooperation and common development will enhance the wellbeing of the people in the region, and even contribute to peace, stability and prosperity of the world. To write Yunnan's chapter in the book of Chinese Dream, create new opportunities for cooperation, and build a new engine of world economy, we hereby set forth the following proposals:

First, seek common economic growth. Yunnan covers an area of 394 thousand square kilometres, accounting for 4.12% of China's territory, with a population of 46.59 million, taking up 3.43% of China's population. Located in the connecting area of China, Southeast Asia and South Asia, where the population accounts for half of the world's total, the province is peerless in market scale and development potential. With the support of the Central People's Government, we are willing to make joint effort with all parties concerned to encourage trans-regional trade, liberalise and facilitate investment, sign multilateral certification agreements and regional transportation agreements, simplify cross-border formalities and lift non-tariff barriers besides taking other measures for facilitating customs clearance. We are willing to promote the coordination of policies, the signing of agreements and employment of supportive measures, give "green light" to regional economic integration in policy and law, speed up the regional economic cycle and improve its quality, so as to upgrade the regional economy.

Second, jointly build infrastruc-

ture. Infrastructure not only partially constitutes, but also props up economic growth. So far, many flights have been opened between Yunnan and South Asia; the Chinese section of the Trans-Asian Railway is currently under construction; and the China-Myanmar Oil and Gas Pipeline is delivering gas to China. To boost the construction of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor, we are willing to work with all parties concerned to advance and improve infrastructure connectivity by prioritizing cross-border transportation, circulation, energy cooperation and information exchange, to promote joint construction and sharing, and to achieve seamless connection and efficient operation. As thus, great passages, great logistics, great markets, great industries and great towns will take shape, which is conducive to the province's further opening up, implementing the great development plan and making significant achievements. This will facilitate economic cooperation and personnel exchange among relevant parties.

Third, help enterprises enhance co-operation. A distinguished scholar once said something to the effect that harmony is essential to the world, the people's livelihood to the state, development to the people's livelihood, entrepreneurship to development, the market to entrepreneurship, and competition to the market; no country, or its people or its families can do without entrepreneurs; all markets, be they international, domestic or regional, are arenas for entrepreneurs. We will, alongside all the other parties concerned, continue to encourage enterprises of South Asia to invest in Yunnan and those of Yunnan to grow in South Asian countries. We will further improve the environment of investment and create an environment conducive to equality and fairness in the use of production factors, in market competition, and in legal protection. We will continue to prove with facts that it is wise and worthwhile for enterprises of all regions to invest and prosper in Yunnan.


Fourth, promote exchange and communication. Bordering on each other

and being geologically close, China and South Asia have seen frequent exchange and lots of cooperation between them. The comprehensive exchange at different levels between Yunnan and South Asia has been particularly fruitful. To further our cooperation in all fields at this new starting point, we must get the support of our peoples, strengthen the friendly exchanges among them, promote our mutual understanding and our traditional friendship, and lay the solid foundation of public opinion support and social support for regional cooperation and stability. We are willing to further our exchange and cooperation in culture, science and technology, education, health, sports and tourism, etc., thereby laying a more solid foundation for the friendship between Yunnan and all the South Asian countries.

Fifth, conserve the eco-environment through concerted efforts. The environment is the rarest exhaustible resource, and the ecology is the most valuable treasure that cannot be reproduced. As we know, the natural environment consists of air, water, soil, mountains and organisms. Yunnan is blessed with advantageous environmental conditions. In the east, you can see Karst landform; in the north, snow-clad mountains; in the west, hot springs and volcanoes; in the south, rain forests; and in the centre, a plateau dotted with lakes. It is reputed as "the world of mountains and home to rivers" and for "four seasons on one mountain and different climates for every ten li." With such geographical, environmental, climatic meteorological and ecological diversity, the province boasts an important ecological protective screen in Southwest China and a splendid showcase of the beautiful landscape of China. We are willing to work together with you and commit ourselves to ecological conservation, green development and eco-civilisation.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends,

China and South Asia have a glorious past. Let's join our hands today and look beyond into the future. We are bound to create new wonders.

Thank you! 



WANG LIPING

*Counsellor of the Department of Asian Affairs,
Ministry of Commerce, PRC*

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, friends,

Good morning!

I am immensely privileged to attend today's High-level Dialogue on "Furthering China-South Asia Relations" and discuss with the political leaders of South Asian countries how to advance the pragmatic cooperation between China and South Asia.

China and South Asia are connected by mountains and rivers. Our close contacts, friendly ties and economic and trade cooperation have been historically long-standing. Since over 2,000 years ago, the Silk Road on the Sea has been linking China and South Asia. Since the turn of the new century, particularly in the past decade, the economic and trade cooperation between the two sides has made rapid headway at an increasingly higher level. In the sector of trade, the total trade volume between China and South Asian countries skyrocketed 10.2 times from 8.3 billion US dollars in 2002 to 93.1 bil-

lion US dollar in 2012. South Asia has been an important market for Chinese mechanical and electrical products and complete sets of equipment. In the other way round, many products of South Asian origin are also widely popular in China. In the sector of investment, South Asia has been China's fastest growing overseas investment destination. By the end of July 2013, the non-financial direct investment of Chinese enterprises in South Asian countries amounted to 4.04 billion US dollars, 17.9 times that by the end of 2002. The investment from China in South Asia has flown to a wide range of sectors including telecommunications, machinery, metallurgy, mining, textile industry, electric appliance manufacturing, finance, etc.. As for economic cooperation, South Asia has become one of China's major overseas markets for project contracting. In 2012, in South Asia, Chinese enterprises signed project contracts worth 11 billion US dollars and accomplished a turnover

of 12.8 billion US dollars, respectively 3.8 times and 13.4 times more than in 2002. A batch of landmark infrastructure projects conducive to the locals' wellbeing has been completed in South Asia. Besides, China has, as its capacity allows, offered to most of South Asian countries assistance gratis, Chinese government concessional loans and preferential export buyer's credit, which have played a positive role in stimulating regional economic and social growth.

China has attached great importance to economic and trade cooperation with South Asia and regarded South Asia as an important economic and trade partner. The economic and trade cooperation between China and South Asia is currently blessed with opportunities. First, as developing countries, we have all given top priority to developing economy and improving people's livelihood and thus shared broad common interests in development. Secondly, after the Global Financial Crisis, both Chinese and South Asian economies have developed rapidly, forming a huge market with an economic aggregate of over 10 trillion US dollars and a population of 3 billion. The foundation for our economic and trade cooperation has been further consolidated. Thirdly, China and South Asia see their economic structures complementary and enjoy a full range of factor endowments. Therefore, furthering economic and trade cooperation will help the two economies mutually reinforce each other's advantages to the possibly greatest extent. Fourthly, though the economic and trade cooperation between China and South Asia is developing fast, their bilateral trade volume and the total investment (of Chinese enterprises in South Asia) accounts for only 23% and 16% of those between China and ASEAN respectively. There remain huge potentials to increase the trade and investment volume.

South Asia is a good neighbour, partner and friend of China. China will


adhere to the policy of "being a good neighbour and partner" and seek to promote its economic and trade cooperation with South Asian countries. As for our future cooperation, I have three proposals to make:

Firstly, strive to promote the balanced growth of trade between China and South Asian countries. The trade imbalance between China and South Asian countries has been an undeniable fact, which is attributable to a variety of underlying causes. China has nonetheless accorded great importance to this issue and is taking a series of measures to bring about the balanced development of our bilateral trade. Over the past years, China has sent trade promotion delegations to South Asian countries from time to time to make more purchases of attention-attracting goods from these countries. Since 2007, China had hosted five consecutive South Asian Countries Trade Fairs, at which free stands are provided to help South Asian countries open up the Chinese market. Since 2013, the South Asian Countries Trade Fair has been upgraded to the China-South Asia Expo, an event held in Kunming every June. It serves as an even greater platform for Southern Asian enterprises to increase export to China. Besides, China has granted zero-tariff treatment to 95% of the taxable items from the most underdeveloped South Asian countries, which further improves their competitiveness in export to China.

Secondly, actively advance the construction of the regional trade system of China and South Asia. At present, regional economy is prospering worldwide. There have been ongoing negotiations on various free trade zones. To gain a firm foothold in the increasingly fierce global competition, China and South Asian countries must seek to advance our own regional trade arrangements and enhance the degree of our economic integration. So far, China and India, Sri Lanka along with Bangladesh have carried out cooperation within the

framework of the Asia-Pacific Countries Trade Agreement. It is necessary to ensure the success of the fourth-round negotiations on tariff concessions and seek to advance the talks on investment and service trade. China has signed with Pakistan a free trade agreement and completed with India the joint feasibility study on bilateral regional trade arrangements in 2007. We are willing to seriously discuss the launch of negotiations on multilateral regional trade with more South Asian countries. It is fair to say the time is ripe for China and South Asian countries to establish closer economic and trade ties.

Thirdly, further enrich the connotations of the economic and trade cooperation between China and South Asia. China encourages and supports its enterprises to increase their investment in South Asia, particularly in the manufacturing sector and strives to make South Asia an important destination of the overseas-bound transfer of the industries covering textile, electric appliances, machinery, electronics, etc.; it encourages and supports its enterprises to partner with South Asian countries in modern service fields such as telecom operation, banking, insurance, design and consultation and strives to tap into new growth points for bilateral practical cooperation; it encourages and supports its enterprises to engage in the construction of power and transportation infrastructure, particularly that of the China-Pakistan and Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor, thereby improving regional connectivity. While continuing to provide assistance and financial support to South Asian countries, China will also support its enterprises to participate in local large-scale projects by internationally accepted means such as "build-operate-transfer" (BOT) and private-public partnership (PPP), actively promote our integration of interests, and achieve mutual benefit and common development.

Thank you. 



MOUDUD AHMED

*Former Prime Minister and Vice-President
of Bangladesh, Elected Member of the
Bangladesh Parliament*

Mr. President,
Distinguish participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon to you all.

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to address you in this Dialogue on a subject of great importance not only to China and South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and the Maldives) but to the entire region. In the present global context the phenomenal transformation of China and India in terms of economic progress has assumed a completely new dimension. With a combined population of 2.76 billion, more than a third of the total population of this planet, China and South Asia are destined to play an important role in the central stage of world economy and politics.

While sitting in this beautiful city of Kunming of a vibrant Yunnan province of China today I recall with a great pride of my meeting with his Excellency Deng Xiaoping in the Great Hall of the People's Republic of China as a Minister of Telecommunication. It was the beginning of the 4-point moderniza-

tion programme which Deng Xiaoping explained to me in detail during a long session of more than an hour. I was only 38 years, almost half of his age and I listened to him, to grasp what this great statesman was narrating to me on that day. He was a man of great vision and I recollect what he told me on the new Programme China was going to pursue, the underlying theme of which was "reform and open".

He told me-

First, the People's Republic of China will be managed under the discipline of the Communist Party with the structure of the state remaining the same.

Second, China will go for multi-dimensional reforms. It will concentrate and invest more on science, technology, education, industry and agriculture. China will gradually open itself to compete with the developed nations for bilateral business and investment. It will acquire best of technology and use them to create its market all over the world.

Third, in the next 50 years China will restrain itself to involve in any military conflict. It will deploy all its resources

to gain economic strength and prosperity and reduce poverty of the millions of Chinese who were living in extreme miseries.

Fourth, China will encourage and maintain good, cordial and friendly relations with its neighbors.

What I see today is that China has achieved much more than what Deng Xiaoping had told me 35 years ago. The successive dynamic Chinese leadership has materialized the vision enunciated under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping. China today is the second largest world economy and is predicted to emerge as the best one in a not-too-distant future. I recommend to all to read a 876-page book "Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China" of Professor Ezra F. Vogel published by the Harvard University Press who had said in a launching seminar at Harvard in October 2011 "to know the modern China one has to know well Deng Xiaoping".

China and South Asia (India before 1947) are two of the world's oldest civilizations and have co-existed for millenniums and the relationship between the two regions traces back to centuries

of religious, cultural, political and trade contacts. The Silk Road not only served as a major route between China and South Asia but also credited for facilitating the spread of Buddhism from South Asia to East Asia.

The Chinese monks such as Yijing and Xuanzang traveled to Buddhist monasteries in northern part of South Asia now known as Bangladesh between 6th and 7th Centuries to acquire knowledge of the Indian sub-continent. Atish Dipankar Srigala, a Buddhist master from Bikrampur, not very far from Bangladesh the Sarma schools of Tibetan Buddhism. From that period there has been a constant exchange of scholars and path finders between China and Indian sub-continent.

The Chinese explorer Zheng He took two voyages to Bengal in 1421 and 1431 up to Sonargaon, the ancient capital of the eastern part of Bengal. The political and economic relation between China and South Asia continued throughout the Ming Dynasty till the 17th Century.

In October, 1975 the diplomatic relationship between Bangladesh and China was established. Our friendship started soon after the visit of former President Ziaur Rahman to China in January, 1977 and since then the relationship has strengthened as an 'eternal bondage' between the two countries. Culminated by exchanges of visits at the highest levels between the two countries, China has become not only a trusted friend but a partner in the development of Bangladesh.

In 2005 the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited Bangladesh. The two countries signed 9 different bilateral agreements and both countries declared 2005 as the Bangladesh-China Friendship Year. On the invitation of Bangladesh China was adopted as an Observer in the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) whereby China and South Asia came closer to each other.

At the invitation of Premier Wen Jiabao, the visit to China in March 2010 of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is considered as a milestone in

establishing "a closer comprehensive partnership cooperation between China and Bangladesh from the strategic perspective and on the basis of the principles of longstanding friendship, equality and mutual benefit". They signed an Agreement on economic and technical cooperation, a Framework Agreement on a concessional loan and exchanged letters on the construction of 7th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge, a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in oil and gas sector, and a Memorandum of Understanding on agricultural cooperation, on hydrological data sharing and dredging of river beds.

The relationship between China and Pakistan is a deep-rooted one both in the regional and global context. Besides the Chinese cooperation in developing Pakistan nuclear programme, the depth and extent of the military cooperation between the two countries is well known. The relationship has assumed more strategic importance in the geo-political perspective of South and Central Asia. It has continued to be strengthened further by frequent visits of leaders of both the countries at the highest levels. Soon after the election recently held in Pakistan the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang visited Pakistan and the newly elected Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited China in July 2013. Both leaders decided to further increase investment for the development of Pakistan for mutual benefits and establish a corridor of opportunity by building a 1300 kilometers long road from Kashgar in China to Gwadar, the southern most Port city of Pakistan, including a railway and oil pipe line to link Xin Jiang giving China access to the Arabian Sea.

The friendship of China with Sri Lanka originated in the friendly exchange of visits of scholars since ancient times. As early as 410 AD, after two years of studying in Sri Lanka, the Chinese Monk Faxian of Jin Dynasty brought back to China some Buddhist literature and wrote the book "Romance of Buddhist country". The navigator Zheng He of Ming Dynasty visited Sri Lanka many times. In the 15th century a Sri Lankan

Prince visited Beijing and settled down in Quan Zhou, Fu Jian. Since the recognition of China by Sri Lanka in 1950 the friendly relationship between the two countries has strengthened by frequent high level contacts. Premier Zhou Enlai visited Sri Lanka in 1957 and 1964 and in all the years till now all the Heads of governments of both the countries have exchanged visits between the two countries, the latest one being by Premier Wen Jiabao. China and Sri Lanka agreed to upgrade their relationship to a strategic cooperative partnership when the Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa visited China 2013. Trade and business between the two countries continue to flourish and China has helped Sri Lanka in building a Deep Sea Port, a project which has strengthened Sri Lanka's economy considerably.

The Kingdom of Nepal, now a Republic, is China's closest South Asian neighbour deeply connected with ancient roots between the people of both the countries with solid foundation having mutual fundamental interests. Since the diplomatic relationship established between China and Nepal in 1955, the two countries have developed a consistent and steady relationship for an everlasting friendship and comprehensive cooperation. They have developed a partnership of cooperation on the basis of the principle of peaceful co-existence. The recent visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in January 2012 at the invitation of Prime Minister Dr. Baburam Bhattarai the relationship has further enhanced to share common national and international issues of mutual interest.


The most vital and important of all is the critical relationship between India and China, the two giant gates of Asia. While China has a population of 1.4 billion with GDP of US\$ 8.227 trillion and GDP per capita US\$ 6100.00, India has a population of 1.2 billion with GDP US\$ 1.825 trillion and GDP per capita US\$ 1500.00 (all figures as of 2012). Although competing with each other for global role and power and having had 3 military conflicts in the past the relationship between the two countries has

considerably improved since 1980s by more meaningful diplomatic and economic ties. In 2008 China has emerged as India's largest trading partner. Both China and India have made impressive economic growth and have been able to eradicate poverty for millions of people in their respective countries. Both the countries have made attempts to strengthen their strategic and military relationship.

The relationship between the two countries continued to grow stronger and have further been enhanced by the visits of the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to China in 2008 and of Premier Wen Jiabao to India in 2010. When the two leaders last met, it was emphasized that the "Sino-India ties" could be the most "important bilateral partnership of the century".

Both countries now have set a goal to increase bilateral trade to US\$ 100 billion by 2015. In 2012 while attending a summit of BRICS in Delhi the Chinese President Hu Jintao told Indian Prime Minister that "it is China's unswerving policy to develop Sino-India relationship, deepen strategic cooperation and seek common development" and "China hopes too see a peaceful, prosperous and continually developing India and is committed to building more dynamic China-India relationship". When the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang made his first visit to India in May 2013 he emphasized the need to formulate "a common strategy for prosperous future between India and China".

While India being the most dominant country in South Asia and despite the border disputes the two countries still have, the future relationship between China and South Asia as a whole will largely depend on a peaceful and friendly relations between China and India.

A friendly and cooperative relationship between China and South Asia will not only reduce poverty in the region but will make a great contribution for the peace and prosperity for the rest of the world. Both China and South Asia are passing through a crucial period of transformation and development. A friendly and pragmatic cooperation between China and South Asia will help economic emancipation of millions of impoverished masses in this region. China in last two decades has developed a cordial relationship with all the South Asian countries who recognizes China as one state. 

ABDUL RAOUF IBRAHIMI

*Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People)
National Assembly of Afghanistan*

In the name of God,
Hon. Speakers, Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Afternoon,

It's a matter of great pleasure and honor to be part of this unique gathering. At the outset, please allow me to convey the warm greetings and best wishes of the people and members of the National Assembly of Afghanistan to you all distinguished participants in this conference, and thank the people and government of China for their warm welcome and hospitality in this beautiful city.

Dear Colleagues,

The human history has witnessed activities of individuals and nations which have sacrificed a lot for ensuring consistent peace in human society.

Development in the human societies requires bilateral cooperation and friendly relations of nations, in order to achieve true peace and durable security.

Establishing and maintaining fair bilateral or multilateral relations in political, economic and cultural affairs could guarantee the interests of countries. As it has been proved time to time that unjust relations has not lasted long and has caused distrust among international community actors.

It has been one of the frank-policies of the Afghan government to have a fair and friendly relation with all the Asian countries across the world particularly with its close neighbors.

As an Asian country we believe in establishing and strengthening friendly relations with other nations across the globe, Afghanistan's neutrality in World War II, membership in the Non-Aligned Move-



ment and joining majority of the international conventions is a great example of that.

We welcome any prospect, thought and theory which could stabilize the region and promote the development of relations whether economic, commercial or cultural relations and we value close relations with neighboring countries.

Parliament as a forum of elected representatives of the people in the country and a democratic institution could have independent opinions and views to broaden the scope of friendship among nations and ensure relations in other different fields of life.

We believe that majority of the Asian countries with huge number of opportunities in terms of population and rich energy resources as well as their particular geographical location and common interest, could accomplish their goals and reach a strong position through their relation and comprehensive cooperation, where they can play a vital role in the global equations.

China, as one the most prominent

country in the world economic system, could have a very important bilateral and multi-lateral role for south Asian countries.

South Asian countries which have unity within SAARC organization, along with the host country, could mutually benefit for themselves and China.

Regional economic integration and effective economic relations which is a common objective to promote new developments between China and South-Asia could play an efficient role in other various aspects as well.


Therefore, proper ways of solutions can eliminate the barriers in order to build the trade level and investment, and prepare for an effective regional economic integration. On the other hand, by strengthening such relations, we can identify all those obstacles and challenges that slow down the Regional Economic Integration and take concrete measures to address those problems.

It's necessary to begin a new chapter of cooperation and economic integra-

tion that could achieve prosperity for China but also economic prosperity for the South-Asian countries.

I hope these talks could be a start point of cooperation and assistance with each other and could decrease the tariff remedy over the goods of Afghanistan, and as a land lock country, the facility to import and export of goods to Afghanistan come into existence in order to be considered as a positive step towards Economic Integrity across the world.

At the end, I would like to thank all my friends and colleagues and the government of China for the wonderful arrangement of the conference, it's worth mentioning that in our opinion it is a requirement to remove all the barriers of in front of us step by step to ensure good relations. Without any doubt we can reach the set-forth objectives through collaboration of our countries in this conference and Afghanistan is committed to cooperation in any stage.

I thank you very much for the kind attention. 



SALAH SHIHAB

Special Envoy of the Vice President of the Republic of Maldives

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon!

Let me thank the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD), the UN System in China and the Yunnan Provincial People's Government for inviting Maldives to attend the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace and the China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum in Kunming. I am honored to be here today and address the High-Level Dialogue's plenary meeting. Let me also take this opportunity to convey warm greetings and good wishes to the Yunnan Provincial People's Government and its friendly people, both on my own behalf and on behalf of the Government and people of the Maldives.

Particularly over the last decade, China has made a triumphant transformation and its achievements, as a nation, are cause for great celebration and jubilation. As China continues to make great strides in various facets of its development, it has indeed become an outstanding example of the good international citizen.

The Maldives supports international peace initiatives and upholds its belief that greater integration, global stability and prosperity can be achieved through constructive dialogue. I therefore believe that this forum is not only an ideal platform for discussing critical issues in pro-

moting international peace, but also a visible symbol that demonstrates a positive role in maintaining and promoting peace and stability in the region and beyond.

In today's uncertain times, security undoubtedly remains one of the core values and fundamental principles underlying a Nation's sovereignty and independence in the modern state system. As a small island state, the Maldives faces unique threats to its immediate habitat and way of life. Be it natural disasters, economic stalemate or environmental degradation, the Maldives actively seeks promoting greater cooperation among its development partners and works to improve international participation as a positive means of addressing these issues.

The Maldives maintains friendly relations with all countries and is an active voice in the UN system on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and supports diplomatic measures for conflict resolution. Maldives also share many common interests at the United Nations and other international organizations.

The Government of Maldives recognizes that the country's young democratic institutions and practices are in need of strengthening. In this regard, the Government remains convinced that Maldives requires sustained engagement with the international community to assist in the consolidation of our young democ-

racy. The President of the Republic of Maldives Dr. Mohamed Waheed, in his message on the occasion of the recent International Day of Democracy stated that building a democracy requires sustained efforts, which include ensuring the rule of law and establishing a government that fully upholds the Constitution. He also noted that bringing necessary amendments to the Constitution was important to deliver justice to the people and to ensure peace and stability in the country. The recent Presidential Election held in the Maldives on 7 September 2013 marked an important step for our country in its journey to further consolidate democracy. A number of foreign monitors were active during the election to ensure its credibility and transparency.

Most countries in the South Asian region has been stable and keeping a fast speed of development with increasing economic integration and interdependence. Asian countries are now entering into a community of common destiny on their roads of development. In our region, countries are seeking friendly relations with neighbors and commit themselves to resolving contradictions and disputes through dialogue and negotiations. To this effect, China has played a constructive role and has become an important engine driving South Asia's development as well as world economic growth. Thus making the Asian continent where China, South Asian and other Asian countries coexist, truly become a promising land of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before I conclude, I wish to express sincere appreciation of the Government of Maldives for the generous contribution and assistance provided to the socio-economic development of Maldives by the Government of the People's Republic of China. Let me also extend my appreciation for the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, the UN System in China and Yunnan Province for organizing this valuable platform for dialogue and cooperation, and extend my best wishes for its success. 🇨🇳

MIAN KHURSHID MAHMUD KASURI

*President of the Regional Peace Institute, Former Foreign Minister of Pakistan,
Former Caretaker Minister for Parliamentary Affairs*

I would like to thank the host and the organizers for inviting me to speak in this session as well as for inviting a delegation from the Regional Peace Institute of which I am the Chairman. I would also like to commend the host and the organizers for choosing an important subject for discussion. I was originally asked to speak on a slightly different subject with more geo-political dimensions. Later on, the subject was changed to “Opportunities and Challenges: Traditional Heritage and Creative Development of the China-South Asia Relationship”. I’ll try and blend the two.

China and South-Asia are inheritors of ancient civilizations. This rich heritage should be useful in meeting some of the challenges that our region faces today. Before I come to the subject in hand, I would like, with the permission of the Chair, to take the liberty of slightly enlarging the scope of the discussion. There is the proverbial elephant in the room whose presence cannot be ignored. The United States of America has effectively become a neighbour of many South-Asian countries because of

its presence in Afghanistan. At least, as a Pakistani and as its former Foreign Minister, I cannot ignore the presence of the US in South-Asia. In fact, one American Scholar has described U.S., India, China and Pakistan as partners in peril.

Like China, the US has an observer status in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). In fact, it is one the major challenges for the statesman of the 21st century to ensure that the US and China are able to contain their differences so that the rise of China is accepted gracefully by the existing great powers. According to a leading publication, the lesson of history is that everybody loses if the world allows legitimate worries to get out of hand. More than 2,000 years ago, Greece was torn apart by Sparta’s failure to manage the rise of Athens. A hundred years ago, Europe was torn apart by its failure to manage the rise of Germany and, as a result, we had to suffer two world-wars in the earlier part of the twentieth century. If the 21st century is to be more peaceful than the 20th, America and China must learn to co-operate better.

I am reminded of what Napoleon said

famously, “let China sleep, or when China wakes, she will shake the whole world”. China has begun the process of shaking the world through its unprecedented economic development since 1979. Unlike what Napoleon may have envisaged, China has woken up and has made tremendous progress – and it has done all this very peacefully without posing a threat to the regional or world peace which is truly remarkable. We can all learn from China in this regard.

China has had trade, religious and cultural exchanges with South Asian countries since ancient times. This linkage was through the ancient Silk route which was a unique example of cooperation in not just trade and commerce, but also in the realm of ideas and culture. The objective of linking the heritage of the past with the creative possibilities of the future is really a subject which will enable all of us from the region to use this opportunity to overcome our historic baggage.

Silk Road to the Future: A Route to Development

As we all know, Silk Route is a series

of trade and cultural transmission routes that were central to cultural interaction through regions of the Asian continent connecting West and East by linking traders, merchants, pilgrims, monks, soldiers, nomads and urban dwellers from China to south-Asia, Persia and Europe. It was through this network of roads that goods, people and cultural exchanges took place which facilitated and helped the people of the region to understand their history and culture.

The Silk Road comprised several routes. The Karakoram route was mainly a single route running from China through the Karakoram. This has been revived in modern times through an international highway connecting Pakistan and China. Some major cities on the Silk Road were Yazd (Iran), Kashgar (China), Herat, Kabul (Afghanistan), Jaisalmer (India), Peshawar, Taxila, Multan (Pakistan).

Pakistan attaches great importance to its trade relations with the regional countries. It is reconnecting itself through roads, rail tracks, pipelines and other communication channels with China, Afghanistan and Central Asia. Near Chitral, on the other side of the Wakhan Corridor, is Tajikistan. Pakistan is also trying to develop physical infrastructure to connect with Tajikistan.

As foreign minister and as an elected member of the parliament from Kasur which borders India, it was my great desire to re-activate the ancient silk route which used to start from Delhi and run via Ferozepur, Kasur, Lahore, Peshawar, Kabul and onwards to Central Asia and China. For this reason, major highways were constructed right up to the Indian border (Gandasinghwal). It remains my conviction that this is not merely a pipe dream but that, as a result of the infrastructural development described above, this route will become operational not just for Pakistan-India trade, but will link South-Asia to Central and West Asia as well as China when Pakistan and India normalize their relations which, I hope, will not be in too distant a future. My hope is based on my experience in dealing with Pakistan-India relations

for five years as foreign minister. That, however, is another subject.

Cultural Links:

China and South-Asia have a rich heritage and culture. They are inheritors of an ancient civilization and have a glorious past which can be seen in the form of historic monuments, heritage sites, exquisite cuisines, traditional arts and crafts, local brands of medicine, calligraphy, and so much else.

China's relations with Pakistan have been exemplary for several decades, with a cultural agreement signed in 1965 paving the way for exchanges for several years now.

Cultural activities between China and South Asian countries can go a long way towards blunting adversarial feelings through creative expos, conferences and cultural events. In this context, a liberal visa regime for artists, poets, writers and musicians would greatly benefit the region. Sports exchanges will also contribute to its development. I know that they do not play cricket in China, but the revival of cricket series between Pakistan and India created a conducive atmosphere which helped us carry on the peace process between 2002 and 2007. In fact, in cricket matches at Lahore in Pakistan and Chandigarh in India, the youngsters ran across the field carrying flags of both the countries. This would have been unimaginable a few years earlier. This was truly described at that time as a public celebration of peace. I know that the relations between the two countries have since deteriorated, but I strongly believe that this can be rectified given the political will. This, again, is not the subject to be discussed at this forum.

Several Asian states have drastically expanded their academic and educational exchange programmes. This is a significant development because they traditionally exported talent by sending their brightest students to the West, many of them never to return. During the last decade, however, several Asian countries have successfully managed to lure back their human capital. Pakistan has successfully managed to bring back

a large number of PhD students sent abroad at government expense. Unfortunately, in the area of student exchange, India and Pakistan are lagging behind other countries and it is very difficult for students from one country to study in the institutions of higher education in the other. This again is an area to which I paid special attention and some ground work was done then which needs to be carried forward.

Economic Cooperation

The successful experience of the European Union and the ASEAN which is nearer home, is a glaring illustration of the fact that economic cooperation among nations can help gradually overcome tensions and grievances bred by the historical baggage of the past and create a conducive environment in which even seemingly intractable international disputes can begin to be resolved. The example of Malaysia and Indonesia in this respect is particularly relevant for countries like India and Pakistan.

Several parts of the relatively less developed Western China are in close proximity to South Asia. Xinjiang borders Pakistan and Afghanistan while Tibet has contiguous borders with Nepal, Bhutan and the northeastern part of India. Yunnan is contiguous to Myanmar. While China's economy has been galloping and particularly its coastal regions have become an envy of the world, it is now beginning to focus on other areas for development. The Chinese government has shown keen interest in developing its border regions and this, in turn, is bringing it closer to South-Asia.

China and South Asia

It has become customary for the leaders of the two countries to describe the relationship between Pakistan and China as higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the oceans, and sweeter than honey. Not to be left behind, one of our leaders recently said that it was also stronger than steel. However exaggerated it may sound to others, I do strongly believe that this also represents the public sen-



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timent at the grassroots level. I have personally experienced such friendship both in office and out of it.

As Foreign Minister, I was always conscious of the fact that we needed to underpin our relationship with economic cooperation and people to people contact so that friendship established by the founding fathers could be carried over to the next generation. We signed, inter alia, a five year Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement as well as a Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good Neighbourly relations in Islamabad in April 2005. In the sphere of people to people contact, we instituted people to people programmes including regular exchange of youth delegations between the two countries which I am happy to note still continues.

Over the years cooperation between the two countries has continued to grow with major important projects including the Islamabad Sports Complex, Heavy Electrical Complex, Guddu Thermal Power Plant and, of course, the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. This is a manifestation of the multi-faceted cooperation between China and Pakistan. China has genuinely helped strengthen Pakistan's

economic and industrial base.

When Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif talks enthusiastically of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor from Gawadar to Kashgar, he is in fact reflecting the sentiment of the entire nation and not just of his government. All political parties including the Tehreek-e-Insaf to which I belong, as well as other political parties from Pakistan that are represented here, are united on the issue of deep, strategic and abiding friendship with China. The Gawadar-Kashgar Economic Corridor which envisages rail and road links is of importance not just for China and Pakistan's economic progress, but for the region as a whole. Furthermore, the Iran-Pakistan gas Pipeline can also be easily extended to China.

As far as China and India are concerned, it is also pertinent to mention that, despite their unresolved border issue, the two countries have increased their trade to almost US\$ 70 billion and envisage it to touch US\$ 100 billion in the next few years. The two countries are also cooperating on issues of climate change at the United Nations and on many other issues under the aegis of BRICS. China continues to contribute in many ways to Afghanistan's economic reconstruction and development.

Regarding the rise of China, I began by saying that the lesson of the 20th century is that everybody loses if the world allows competing interests of great powers to get out of hand. I hope that wisdom and sagacity will convince the leaders of the 21st century to learn from the lessons of the past. History never ends however much people may like to predict the end of history. It is, however, also unfortunate that people do not learn from history and suffer the consequences. There is something in me, however, which tells me that this time it will be different. This is because never before in history have states wielded such destructive power through modern weaponry. This includes representatives of some of the states gathered here today. This imposes awesome responsibilities on leaders of important countries. I am optimistic enough to believe not just in their wisdom but also in the pluralistic nature of modern states, whatever political system they may subscribe to, which does not allow their leaders such unfettered power. Gatherings like the one today, hopefully, provide some assurance that positive inputs from such groups will strengthen the hands of peacemakers, thus paving the way for greater progress and stability in the region. 🇨🇳

Join Hands to Promote Peace and Bring About a Beautiful Future



MA WENPU

Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, 11th National People's Congress, and Vice President of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

The International Day of Peace 2013 and China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum, co-hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Development, UN System in China, and Yunnan Provincial People's Government, is about to come to a successful end. In the past two days, nearly 200 political leaders, former political leaders, government officials, world peace activists, scholars, and media representatives from China, South Asia, other Asian countries, and UN System have gathered here in Kunming, sharing insights from different perspectives, exchanging ideas and communicating enthusiastically on the theme of "Education for Peace and Cooperation for Mutual Benefit: A Common Wish in the Region". We have met here to discuss peace and development in China and South Asian countries and contribute wisdom and strength to the peace, development, cooperation and win-win situation of this region and the entire world.

Now, to extend our heart-felt gratitude, let's applaud for the distinguished guests who have delivered speeches and comments!

Although China and South Asian countries have different cultures and different paths of development, we have, through two days' in-depth communication, reached many consensus on the role of education in promoting peace, regional stability, common development and win-win cooperation.

First, maintaining peace is our common wish. China and most South Asian countries have a history of suffering foreign invasion and domestic chaos. No one is more keenly aware of the preciousness of peace than us. Without a peaceful and stable environment, development will be out of the question. Therefore, we have attached importance to peace education of the young and to peaceful exchange. China and South Asian countries are all developing countries. We all need a peaceful and stable international environment and good-

neighbourly surrounding environment. We all believe that world multi-polarisation and democratisation of international relations should be advanced and that the world political and economic order should move closer to fairness and rationality. We can call for the settlement of disputes via peaceful dialogue, exchange and negotiation. It has been our shared opinion that every nation's internal affairs should be decided by the nation itself and every nation should have the right to choose a path of development befitting its actual situation. Regional affairs should be decided by the countries and peoples in the region. Affairs of South Asia should be decided by the countries and peoples in South Asia. We support the process of national reconciliation in Afghanistan and the full realisation of the goal "Afghanistan run by the Afghans". The peaceful reconstruction of Afghanistan is not only the common wish of the Afghan people, but concerns the common interests of the international community including China and South Asian countries. The development of friendly relations and political mutual trust between China and South Asia is in the fundamental interests of our peoples and in line with the trend toward peace and development in Asia and the world.

All the participating parties have expressed unequivocally the common wish to seek peace and join hands to maintain security, and vowed to safeguard, build and promote peace. China and South Asia have a population of 3 billion, which accounts for two fifths of the world's total. The message we have conveyed will have significant positive impact on the peace and development of

the region and the world.

Second, development is our common mission. China has a poverty population of more than 100 million. The eight countries in South Asia have a poverty population of about 500 million. South Asia remains one of the poorest regions in the world. For both China and South Asian countries, development remains a top priority and a key to the settlement of prominent conflicts and issues. It has been our people's exigent wish to boost economic growth and improve livelihood. The development of China and South Asian countries, which enables two fifths of the world's population to live a happy well-off life, is an unprecedented grand cause in the human history, as well as the greatest contribution our region can make to the world.

Now, the Chinese people are on the track of realising the Chinese Dream, a dream of state prosperity, national revitalisation and the people's happiness. Through this event, we have keenly felt that the Chinese Dream is consistent with the dreams of South Asian countries. All our peoples look forward to a beautiful future. The common development of China and South Asia will give a strong momentum to the rise of Asia. The Chinese people hope for friendly win-win cooperation with the South Asian peoples and build South Asia into a land of peace and stability, where the peoples live in peace and contentment, and the countries coexist in harmony.

Third, win-win cooperation is a common aspiration. China and South Asian countries have all made strenuous yet fruitful efforts on the path of national revitalisation. Our cultural and geographical vicinity and great market potential have provided us with numerous advantages for strengthening exchange and mutual learning and expanding win-win cooperation. It is the universal belief of all the attendees that we should translate the potential advantages in population, resources, market and technology into advantages for development, see the others' development as a major opportunity, and further our all-round and open cooperation. The cooperation between China

and South Asian countries should be further advanced. We should promote connectivity, lay a solid foundation for opening up and cooperation, and step up the construction of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor and China-Pakistan Economic Cooperation Corridor, thereby building a greater market, concerting our development efforts and turning the Asian Continent spanning China and South Asia into a cradle of peace, development and cooperation.

The Sino-South Asian relationship is gaining global and strategic significance. The strengthened win-win cooperation between China and South Asian countries will give an immense boost to the strength and confidence of the developing world and to the move of the world order and international systems towards fairness and rationality.

Fourth, it is a consensus that regional diversity should be respected.

The world is colourful. Countries differ in culture, tradition, social system, values, and development mode. This not only manifests the world's vitality, but also drives the world's prosperity. The Chinese, Indian, Islamic and Buddhist civilisations each has their own characteristics. Splendid in different ways, they are the quintessence of human wisdom in history.

Despite their different cultures, traditions and social systems, China and South Asian countries have enjoyed friendly relations and close cooperation. This has indicated that countries of different civilisations can coexist in harmony. If we uphold the spirit of tolerance and learn from each other, we can transcend difference, converge consensus, achieve the harmony and progress of different civilisations, maintain the diversity of the world, and develop in different ways.

Fifth, non-governmental exchange should be encouraged to enhance understanding and friendship.


The key to sound relations between states lies in the affinity between their peoples, which largely stems from mutual understanding. The traditional friendship between China and South Asian countries is deeply rooted among the peoples. The

profound friendship between Chinese and South Asian peoples has been an important underlying basis for our state-to-state relations. Only if our peoples take part with zeal can the friendship between our countries last and thrive and can the basis for our cooperation be further consolidated. We have all clearly stated that the win-win cooperation and sustained development of China and South Asian countries call for ever-growing non-governmental exchange and a solid public opinion basis. We should promote friendly contacts between nongovernmental organisations, think tanks, youth groups and media. History has proved that the deeper the non-governmental exchange, the more understanding and consensus there will be among the peoples of China and South Asia and the more solid the friendly ties between the countries.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

China and South Asia are geographically close. The old Silk Road has witnessed our friendship. "Family members wish each other well, and so do neighbours". Non-governmental exchange and cooperation is a bridge for our countries and peoples to build understanding and mutual trust. The Commemoration of the International Day of Peace and China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum has served as an important platform for such exchange and cooperation between Chinese and South Asian peoples and greatly improved their mutual understanding and friendliness. I believe that the success of this event not only reflects the joint efforts we have made to shape a future of regional peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, but inspires us to advance the friendly exchanges between our peoples in different ways. Let's join hands to sustain the lasting peace, bring about a win-win situation, promote friendly exchanges and create a more beautiful future.

I hereby declare the successful conclusion of the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2013 and China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum.

Thank you! 

Holding High the Banner of Peace and Promoting the New Development of China-South Asia Relations

---An Overview of the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2013 and China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum

During 21-22 September, 2013, the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2013 and China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum was held in Kunming in the breezy golden autumn. This event was jointly hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Development (CPAPD), UN System in China, and Yunnan Provincial People's Government, co-sponsored by the Chinese Association for International Understanding, China NGO Network for International Exchanges and China Foundation for Peace and Development. Mr. Li Yuanchao, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Vice President of the People's Republic of China, and Mr. Han Qide, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and CPAPD President attended and addressed the meeting. Mr. Li Jiheng, Governor of Yunnan Province, delivered a welcome speech, and Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary-General sent a video speech of congratulations. More than 1,000 people were present at the opening ceremony, including incumbent and former political leaders from South Asian countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Nepal and the Maldives, over

200 representatives from China and South Asian countries, and hundreds of faculty members and students of the colleges and universities in Yunnan.

Converging Consensus and Jointly Building Lasting Peace in South Asia

The Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2013 and China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum, with the theme of "Education for Peace and Cooperation for Win-Win: A Common Wish in the Region", was officially launched at Haigeng Auditorium in Kunming at 10 a.m. on 21 September, 2013. The Commemoration consisted of the opening and closing ceremonies, a High-level Dialogue, four sub-forums and an Art Exhibition on Peace.

Mr. Li Yuanchao, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Vice President of the People's Republic of China attended the opening ceremony and delivered a keynote speech titled "Build Lasting Peace in South Asia through Cooperation and Development". President Li Yuanchao said that "Education for Peace", the theme set by the United Nations for the International Day of Peace 2013, was

highly relevant and that the international community should continue to make concerted efforts to educate our people, especially the younger generation, to cherish, safeguard, and promote peace. The Forum offered a platform for dialogues and discussions on cooperation and development of China and South Asian countries, which was a response to the calls of the times, and to the aspiration of our people.

He added, as the one of the four cradles of great ancient civilizations, South Asia used to be the most prosperous part of the world. Since modern times, however, invasions by Western colonizers have brought enormous sufferings to the region. The people of South Asia fought tenaciously for independence and liberation, and finally embarked on a path of development of their own. In this process, the people of the region have forged a community of shared destiny. War is the biggest stumbling block to development in South Asia. Over the decades, countries in South Asia have lost many development opportunities to territorial disputes, sectarian strife, and ethnical conflicts. The South Asian people have long suffered from war and chaos. Lasting peace is a shared aspiration of the South Asian people.

Having been victimized by colonial invasion for a long time in history, the

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Chinese people have keen empathy for the sufferings of their neighbours in South Asia. Both China and South Asia are now facing important development opportunities. To seize the opportunities, promote regional economic growth and jointly build lasting peace in the region, Mr. Li Yuanchao made the following four suggestions: First, champion the cause of peace, and pool our strength in the pursuit. Lasting peace in the region is in the best interests of both the South Asian and the Chinese people. The 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China reiterated peace, development, cooperation and win-win outcomes, and identified good neighbourliness as the top priority in China's foreign policy. The Chinese government attaches great importance to the relationship with South Asia. China stands ready to collaborate with South Asian countries to pool our strength and promote development through maintaining and building peace. Second, take matters in our own hands and oppose foreign intervention. The people of South Asia have developed their independent foreign policies through their fight against colonial rule and foreign intervention. Firmly believing in the traditional philosophy of "never imposing on others what you would not choose for yourself," China has long adhered to the independent

foreign policy of peace. China is willing to stand together with South Asian countries to follow the five principles of peaceful coexistence in handling state-to-state relations, respect the right of all countries to independently choose their social systems and development paths, and oppose foreign intervention and bullying by the big and strong countries against the small and weak. Third, enhance dialogues and consultations to peacefully resolve disputes. Dialogues and consultations are the correct way to resolve conflicts and disputes. In recent years, South Asian countries have endeavoured to seek peaceful resolutions of their disputes through consultations. China wishes to work with South Asian countries to settle disputes and conflicts through peaceful negotiations with reconciliation and oppose the use or threat of force at every turn. Fourth, expand win-win cooperation to achieve development and mutual benefit. It has become a general trend for countries to promote development through cooperation, and to promote peace through development. In recent years, SAARC members are now endeavouring for more connectivity in the region which facilitates regional economic integration. China is willing to work together with South Asian countries in the spirit of equality for mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, to fully

leverage our advantages of geographical proximity and economic complementarities, accelerate the improvement of connectivity, expand pragmatic cooperation in various fields, build an even more closely-connected community of common interests, and lay a solid material foundation for lasting peace.

In the end, Mr. Li Yuanchao stressed that the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation articulated by President Xi Jinping is a dream of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, which is consistent with the dream of the South Asian people and that China is willing to peacefully coexist with our neighbours, including South Asian countries, on an equal footing, so that we are always good neighbours, good friends, and good partners.

In his address, Mr. Han Qide, CPPCC Vice Chairman and CPAPD President, said that peace and stability has generally predominated in today's world, but some areas have been plagued by incessant conflict and turmoil. The important cause underlying this has been backward and imbalanced development. As education has played a fundamental role in promoting development, every country should start with education in their bid to maintain peace. Poverty has been an important hot bed of conflict and war. Education is the essential means of

eradicating poverty and backwardness. China has owed its rapid development to the synchronised development of education. Peace and development call for international education exchange. Education promotes development and peace, which has been a universal belief of peoples of the world, including China and South Asian countries. China has long persisted in giving priority to education and built the largest educational system in the world. The free nine-year compulsory education has been universalised in a comprehensive fashion in both urban and rural areas. All school-age children have access to primary education. The dream of no social distinctions in teaching, cherished by the Chinese people over the past thousands of years, has now become a reality. One of CPAPD's missions is to promote education for peace. In the end, he called upon developed countries to help poor countries so as to improve the entire human race's level of education and culture and promote common development.

A videoed congratulatory message from Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, was played at the opening ceremony. He believed that it is very meaningful to commemorate the International Day of Peace by holding the China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum. He urged actions to teach children the value of tolerance and mutual respect, to invest in schools and teachers, and to build a fair and all-inclusive world embracing diversity. In her address at the opening ceremony, Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallien, UN Resident Coordinator in China, expressed gratitude for CPAPD's regular work of promoting peace. She stated that education should help children learn to understand and accept difference, to respect others, and to share. With faith in a fairer, more tolerant and more peaceful world, she urged people to break old and narrow habits and build the century of Asia into a century of sustained and stable world peace in the history of mankind.

In their speeches at the opening ceremony, Mr. Abdul Ibrahim, Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People), Na-

tional Assembly of Afghanistan and Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament, agreed that war can only bring destruction, peace is the common demand of the human race, and the common aspiration of the people in the region is to live in a peaceful, harmonious environment and enjoy due dignity. Peace education is an important condition for the construction of a peaceful world free of violence. Its purpose is to cultivate an attitude, an ability and a behavioural habit so that we can coexist in harmony, seek kind and non-violent means of resolving conflicts, and advocate tolerance and diversity so that social cohesion can be developed. The foreign political leaders present at the opening ceremony all expressed their hope to elevate the cooperation with China and other neighbouring countries by stepping up the education of the young generation and make joint efforts to maintain peace and stability in South Asia.

Mr. Li Jiheng delivered a speech on behalf of Yunnan Province. He pointed out that Yunnan, being located in the southwest of China, is linked to Southeast and South Asia on land. Being geographically near, genetically close and culturally similar, Yunnan and Southeast and South Asian countries have had close business ties and shared interests. Their friendly exchange has come a long way. As the integration of regional economy progresses, the exchange and cooperation between China and South Asian countries have been increasingly close. The friendly cooperation between them has kept on the rise. China and South Asian countries need to promote connectivity, increase people to people and cultural exchanges, constantly build up mutual trust and deepen friendship and cooperation through further win-win cooperation. In the end, he expressed the willingness of Yunnan Province to become a bridge and bond in stepping up the friendly cooperation between China and South Asian countries, to carry forward friendship, further cooperation and jointly seek development.

Pooling Wisdom to Promote the New Development of China-South Asia Relations

On the morning of 21 September, 2013, the High-level Dialogue of the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2013 and China-South Asia Peace and Development officially kicked off. The High-level Dialogue was organised in two stages, chaired respectively by Maj. General Pan Zhenqiang, CPAPD Adviser and former director of the Strategic Studies Institute, National Defence University, and Mr. Mao Rubo, CPAPD Adviser and Chairman of the Commission of Environment and Resources Conservation, 10th National People's Congress. On the theme of "Pooling Wisdom and Converging Consensus: Promoting the New Development of China-South-Asia Relations", the High-level Dialogue took place in two stages, which were committed respectively to the topics of "Jointly Promoting Lasting Peace in South Asia" and "New Ideas for Pragmatic Cooperation".

Since the turn of the new century, the security situation has improved in South Asia. However, there still exist many uncertain factors. Issues of traditional and non-traditional security have posed grave challenges to the lasting peace and stability of the region. On the one hand, some countries are in the middle of democratisation. System reform has increased the uncertainty in the evolution of their political situations. The representatives of the Maldives and Bangladesh briefed the audience on their respective domestic political situations, particularly the positive progresses in democratic reform, and called upon the international community to support them rather than interfere with their internal affairs so as to prevent their political situations from becoming more complicated. On the other hand, the representatives universally held that terrorism, extremism and separatism have been the key barriers impeding regional

peace and stability. Afghanistan and Pakistan, in particular, have been haunted by terrorism. Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, said that Pakistan had suffered serious economic losses in the fight against terrorism which claimed 40,000 lives.

Participants of the event actively carried out dialogues on the issues above and discussions on how to maintain the lasting peace in South Asia. The representatives stated candidly that it is essential to resolve the existing problems through dialogue and consultation and oppose the use of force at every turn. They should strengthen the coordination and cooperation with China and work together to maintain regional security. Double standards should not be adopted in the fight against terrorism. No country should whitewash a terrorist group beneficial to it as freedom fighters; or deem a group which has rubbed it the wrong way as a terrorist group. In the fight against terrorism, both the symptoms and the root causes should be addressed, and international cooperation strengthened so that terrorism can be rooted up by improving regional security environment. The representatives all stated that China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum provided a good platform for the realisation of regional security and stability and that we must avail ourselves of it as an opportunity to further step up constructive dialogue and cooperation between the countries in the region so as to bring about lasting peace in South Asia.

The turn of the new century has seen the continuous deepening of the economic ties between China and South Asian countries. Particularly in the recent ten years, their trade volume has been constantly expanding, from 5.7 billion US dollars in 2000 to 93 billion US dollars in 2012, with an annual average growth rate of over 26%. South Asia has been an important market for Chinese mechanical and electric products and complete sets of equipment, as well as China's fastest growing overseas investment destination. For South Asian

countries, China has been an important trade partner and a source of investment. Though the economic and trade relations between China and South Asia have developed rapidly, the fields of their cooperation have been expanding, and they are getting increasingly dependent on each other, there remain much room for improvement compared with the relations between China and some other regions. The distinguished guests present believed that, to further elevate the level of regional economic cooperation, South Asia and China should see regional integration as a common objective, remove trade and investment barriers, create conditions for effective regional integration, and achieve economic prosperity of China and South Asian countries through regional integration. We should also take advantage of such mechanism arrangements as China-South Asia Expo, Kathmandu Cultural Forum, Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, explore new forms of cooperation and actively advance pragmatic cooperation so as to achieve greater progress. We should also further improve the level of investment and enrich China-South Asia economic and trade cooperation by improving the investment environment.

As indicated by Mr. Qiu He, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee, Yunnan, as one of the sponsors of this Forum, is a bridgehead in China's opening up to the southwest, will work with South Asian countries to seek common economic growth, build infrastructure, facilitate cooperation between enterprises, promote exchange and communication, and conserve the eco-environment. Speaking of the future, the representatives said that both China and South Asia boast a long history, abundant natural resources, large populations, and relatively rapid economic growth, and thus will exert even greater influence in international affairs. Friendly ties between China and South Asia will not only help relieve poverty in the region, but also contribute to the peace and prosperity of the world.

Apart from the speeches and discussions by the political leaders of the participating countries at the opening ceremony and during the High-level Dialogue, scholars, think tanks and media of China and South Asia also participated in the four sub-forums respectively themed on "Education for Peace and Development", "Mutual Benefit and Win-Win Outcome: Elevating the Economic Cooperation Between China and South Asian Countries", "Peace and Reconstruction in Afghanistan: The New Starting Point for Reconciliation and Cooperation in the Region" and "Opportunities and Challenges: Inheritance and Innovative Development of the China-South-Asia Relationship". The atmosphere was lively, with the participants actively offering advice and suggestions on promoting education for peace, advancing regional stability, conducting pragmatic cooperation and deepening political mutual trust. After the meeting, the participants paid a visit to Yunnan University of Nationalities, the Museum of Nationalities and planted peace trees with students. The planting of the peace trees reflected the wish and aspiration to continue the long-standing friendship between China and South Asian countries and to jointly maintain lasting peace in the region.

A tight schedule, substantial dialogues, and pragmatic policy proposals have been the most distinctive features of the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2013 and China-South Asia Peace and Development Forum. The event has served as an important platform for such exchange and cooperation between Chinese and South Asian peoples and greatly improved their mutual understanding and friendliness. The success of this event not only reflects the joint efforts we have made to shape a future of regional peace, development, cooperation and win-win outcomes, but also inspires us to advance the friendly exchanges between our peoples in different ways. 