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Dimitrios Christofias, Former President, Cyprus
Anisul Islam Mahmud, Minister of Water Resources, Bangladesh
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Alain Noudéhou, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in China
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Let Asian People Bask in Peace

A Summary of the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2014

The International Day of Peace 2014 was commemorated in the beautiful ancient city of Xi'an from September 22 to 24, 2014. Themed "People Aspire to a Safer Asia", the event was co-sponsored by the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD), the UN system in China, and the Shaanxi Provincial Government. Han Qide, Deputy Chairman of the CPPCC National Committee and President of the CPAPD, delivered a keynote speech entitled "Asian People Working Together to Maintain Peace and Security and Build a Peaceful, Prosperous and Secure Future". UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sent a video message to express his congratulations. The event was attended by more than 300 persons, including Chinese guests such as Zhao Zhengyong, Secretary of the CPC Shaanxi Provincial Committee, Lou Qinjian, Governor of Shaanxi Province, Li Jinjun, Vice Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, Yu Hongjun, Vice President of the CPAPD and former Vice Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, He Jun, Vice President of the CPAPD and former Assistant Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, Han Fangming, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the CPPCC National Committee, Wei Minzhou, member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Shaanxi Pro-

vincial Committee and Secretary of the CPC Xi'an Municipal Committee, and Dong Jun, Mayor of Xi'an, foreign guests such as Alain Noudéhou, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in China, Chamal Jayantha Rajapaksa, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, Dimitrios Christofias, former President of Cyprus, and Hussain Muhammad Ershad, former President of Bangladesh, as well as politicians of China and 25 countries along the Silk Road Economic Belt and Maritime Silk Road, think tanks, NGOs, the media, CPAPD directors, and representatives of the UN system in China.

Joining Hands for Security and Stability in Asia

Asia is one of the world's most dynamic regions with the greatest potential, faced with bright prospects for development. Seeking peace and development is a shared aspiration of Asian peoples but there are still many risks and challenges confronting Asia on the way forward. As President of the CPAPD Han Qide pointed out in addressing the Opening Ceremony, to build a better Asia, it is necessary not only to introduce new thinking, new approaches, and new measures for security and cooperation in the region, but also to bring Asian peoples together to create a peaceful, prosperous and secure future.

Asian people should make active

efforts to promote peace and stability in Asia. Where brightness is stronger, there is less darkness. Although there are differences between Asian countries in size, political system, stage of development, and cultural tradition, all Asian peoples aspire to peace and the destinies of Asian countries are closely linked. Asian peoples should stand up against all threats to peace and security in the region and provide active support for Asian governments in their efforts to galvanize consensus through dialogue and consultation, resolve differences in the spirit of amicability, settle disputes through peaceful negotiations, and bring about peace where war has cast a shadow so as to create a sound environment for the development of Asia.

Asian people should make active efforts to promote the common development of Asian countries. Development is the cornerstone of peace. Only development can promise the decent life that people should enjoy. The Chinese government has proposed to build the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road of the 21st Century, with a view to creating a bridge of peaceful development and common prosperity between peoples across Asia and between Asian people and peoples of other continents. China will discuss development strategy with countries along the Silk Road and seek new sources of economic growth so that the prosperity and development brought by the Silk Road will benefit the countries, cities, communities and the general public along it.



Guests from China and abroad pose for a group picture.

Asian people should make active efforts to promote the exchanges between Asian civilizations, an important driving force behind human progress and world development. Asia is among the birthplaces of the world's ancient civilizations. Asian peoples should have exchanges and dialogue, learn more from each other, and seek to promote the harmony between different races, religions and cultures. In this way, the friendships between Asian people will be cemented and Asia will see greater social progress, peace and stability.

The dreams of Chinese people are about peace and development, and echo those of other Asian peoples. To achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is about pursuing peace and well-being through peaceful development. It is the dream of every Chinese. Having gone through hard times, Chinese people cherish peace and are ready to build, protect, and share peace with the people of other Asian countries. The Chinese dream of pursuing well-being is closely related to the dreams of other Asian peoples. While working hard to fulfill its own dream, China will also help other Asian countries to realize their great dreams.

Among the speakers at the event were Zhao Zhengyong, Secretary of the CPC Shaanxi Provincial Committee, Chamal Jayantha Rajapaksa, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, Hussain Muhammad Ershad, former President of Bangladesh, Dimitrios Christofias, former Presi-

dent of Cyprus, and Alain Noudéhou, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in China.

Working Together for Peace and Prosperity in Asia

The two-day commemoration event underscored the importance of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit. The Opening Ceremony was followed by a high-level dialogue as well as four sessions including "Asia Calls for a New Security Concept", "People Need Sustainable Peace: Asia Needs an Innovative Security Mechanism", "Heart-to-Heart Communication: Promoting the Exchanges between Civilizations", and Urban Cooperation and Development Roundtable "Silk Road Economic Belt". In line with the idea of advocating common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security in Asia that Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed at the Fourth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Chinese and foreign delegates shared views with each other candidly and came to the conclusion that Asian countries have the wisdom and ability to build on common values, introduce new approaches to cooperation, draw on each other's strengths, and work together for a safer Asia.

The Asian security concept is created as a response to the call of the times. Its open, inclusive and prag-

matic qualities have been widely recognized among Asian countries. China plays a significant role in developing and practicing such a concept. Delegates agreed that the Asian security concept was proposed at an opportune time. It answers the call of the times and also addresses the practical needs of regional security. Globalization has come with increased interdependence between countries. The political, economic, religious or ethnic conflict in any country may quickly spread to other parts of the world. In Asia, countries differ greatly from each other. To maintain peace and stability in the region, a common language is needed to enable communication between all Asian peoples on common grounds. The Asian security concept stresses coordination and dialogue rather than the threat of force, advocates openness and inclusiveness rather than conservatism and confrontation, and focuses on pragmatic cooperation rather than fruitless paperwork and meetings. Its particular attention to openness, inclusiveness, sharing, mutual benefit and pragmatism is of significance to the whole world to a certain extent. In the meantime, practicing the Asian security concept requires a correct grasp of the reality and a wise choice of path. First, the focus should be on development. Security and peace should be built on development and in particular, every country should help its neighbors achieve economic growth and prosperity. Second, proper mechanisms should be put in place. If

Asian countries fail to establish effective cooperation mechanisms based on the new security concept, peace and security is likely to become empty talks. Delegates also talked excitedly about how to build supporting mechanisms based on the platforms offered by CICA summit, SCO, etc. They indicated that China plays a unique and irreplaceable role in developing the Asian security concept and suggested that China should be fully engaged and lead the efforts to promote practice the concept.

The development of the Silk Road Economic Belt and Maritime Silk Road will boost the friendly exchanges between Asian countries, promote their mutual understanding, better serve their common interests, and help Asia achieve lasting peace and stability. Therefore, it is of great practical significance. The strategy is in line with Asian people's common aspiration for peace and security and intended to serve the common interests of all Asian countries so it will help to preserve unity in Asia and create a safer environment in the region. First, it is conducive to fostering mutual trust and resolving differences between countries concerned. Since the focus is on economic and trade cooperation and the conventional East-West trade model is replaced by South-South investment cooperation, poverty eradication will be promoted, the common interests of countries along the Silk Road will be expanded, and the mutual understanding and trust between them will be improved through fair trade and win-win cooperation. Second, it spreads the idea of peace and inclusiveness. As delegates said frankly, Chinese people have always cherished peace and they opened up the path of development with silk rather than fire and sword more than 2,000 years ago. The "Silk Road Economic Belt" China has envisioned will spread the Chinese culture and philosophy of peace to the Eurasian countries along the Silk Road. Third, it will help to cultural exchanges and integration. The ancient



On September 23, 2014, children with paper "Peace Dove" are praying for peace in Wild Goose Pagoda in Xi'an.

Silk Road was literally trodden by ancient Chinese people and promoted the exchanges between different religions and cultures. The new Silk Road should not only focus on economic cooperation but also feature people-to-people exchanges and cooperation so as to follow and enrich the cultural thread of the ancient Silk Road.

The exchanges, improved understanding, and common development between countries and in particular, between people, will help to wipe out the security and trust deficits between countries and contribute to the building of a better life shared by all and a peaceful and prosperous Asia and world. The exchanges between civilizations are an important driving force behind human progress and world development. First, civilizations are equal. In the long history of humans, diverse civilizations have been created. The diversity can be seen not only at global level but also at regional and national levels. Every civilization has its unique value and deserves due respect. Second, the diversity in civilizations gives value to exchanges. Learning from each other will only add variety to every civilization so that the people of every country will enjoy an enriched life and build a better future of their choice. Third, civilization is inclusive. All civilizations complementing each other will

only lead to peace and development shared by all humans. Fourth, dialogue should be held to avoid the "clash of civilizations". It is generally believed among Chinese and foreign delegates that differences do not necessarily lead to conflict which comes from people's mind and is not directly related to the civilizations concerned while dialogue can help to promote heart-to-heart communication. As long as people keep calm, respect diversity, and let the seeds of peace take root, civilizations will thrive in harmony.

The commemoration event follows the CICA summit and precedes the APEC summit, which is a perfect timing. Its location is carefully selected. In ancient China, Xi'an was known as Chang'an, which means long-term peace and stability, echoing the theme of the event "People Aspire to a Safer Asia". Apart from the high-level dialogue and four sessions, other activities were also organized, including opening ceremony of the Peace Art Exhibition and launch ceremony of the Ray of Sunshine Project, ringing bells at Wild Goose Pagoda to pray for peace, and flying doves of peace. All the activities were intended to spread the message of peace all over the world. May Asia enjoy better peace and stability! May Asian people live a better life! May the world bask in peace! 🇨🇳



HAN QIDE

Deputy Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), President of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD), China

Today, representatives of the Asian people gather here in the beautiful ancient city of Xi'an, to commemorate the International Day of Peace 2014. Here, I would like to express warm congratulations to the opening of the Commemoration, and extend sincere welcome to all distinguished guests, who have traveled afar to attend the event.

In commemoration of the 1984 UN General Assembly Declaration of the Right of Peoples to Peace, the United Nations designated the theme of this year's International Day of Peace to be "Right of Peoples to Peace". After 30 years, the Declaration's core contents about eradicating war, settling international disputes by peaceful means, building lasting peace, implementing

the right of peoples to peace, and promoting sustainable progress of mankind are still significantly relevant.

History is our best textbook, and also the strongest dose of sobriety. History tells us that wars are like devils and nightmares, bringing people heavy disasters and suffering. In the last century, from 1900 to 1990, 107 million people lost their lives in wars. After entering modern civilization, mankind has not made wars any more civilized with more modern weaponry. In modern warfare, the ideas of "frontline" and "rear area" cease to exist, and the battlefields have been expanded to shopping malls, hotels, train stations, even schools, inflicting collateral damages on innocent women and children. War has claimed precious lives from more and more civilians. In the First World War 10% of the total casualties were

suffered by civilians. In the Second World War, Fascist invaders brought a catastrophe to the world. Japanese invaders trampled the beautiful lands of China and many other Asian countries. They slaughtered soldiers and civilians indiscriminately, violated and mutilated women, waged biological and chemical warfare, and staged an array of heinous horrors including the Nanjing Massacre. The countries and peoples of Asia who were invaded by Japan suffered huge losses, and half of all casualties were civilian. In the Vietnam War, the number rose to 70%, and in the Iraq War, it reached 90%.

We should learn our lessons from history, jointly address security challenges, and make concerted efforts to promote prosperity and development in Asia, so that peoples of Asia and the rest of the world can enjoy happy life, basking in the sunshine of peace.

First, the people of Asia should be active advocates of peace and stability in Asia. At present, Asia is still faced with various traditional and non-traditional security threats. Flames and threats of war are still with us, and many of our people are living in the terrors of conflicts and chaos. Japan, the perpetrator of the WWII who was defeated in the end, are now governed by leaders who are still attempting to justify its history of aggression, and challenge the hard-earned victory of WWII and the post-war international order. History and facts have been written in ink, which cannot be changed by anyone. The Chinese people, who sacrificed tremendously, will unswervingly defend the history written with our blood and lives. The people of China, and the peoples of Asia, will never agree to anyone's attempt to deny, distort, or even whitewash the history of Japanese aggression. We hope that the Japanese leaders can face up to, and reflect upon, their history of aggression, and correct their wrongdoings with concrete actions to regain the trust of neighboring Asian countries and the international community.

When light advances by one step,

darkness has to recede by one step as well. Despite the differences of Asian countries in size, political system, development stage, and cultural traditions, our peoples share a common aspiration for peace, and a common fate of safety or peril. The peoples of Asia should step forward bravely with a solemn “no” to all attempts that threaten peace and security, actively support consensus-building among Asian governments through dialogue and consultation, bridge differences in the spirit of mutual understanding and tolerance, and settle disputes through peaceful negotiation. We should let the sunshine of peace disperse the gloom of war, and create a sound environment for Asia’s development.

Second, the people of Asia should be active supporters of common development in Asia. Development is the foundation of peace, for only development can bring people a decent life. Asia today stands among the most dynamic regions of the world, with one third of the global economy, a population of over 4 billion, ample supply of labor, and strong advantages of the late-starters. At the same time, most countries in Asia are still developing ones, with relatively low per capita GDP, uneven development in different regions, and more than 700 million people living under the international poverty line, and hence an arduous task of development.

The stage for cooperation is as wide as our minds can open up to. The proposals by the Chinese government of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road in the 21st Century aim at building a bridge of peaceful development and common prosperity among peoples of Asia, and linking them to the peoples of other continents. In the next 5 years, China will import 10 trillion U.S. dollars worth of goods, invest over 500 billion U.S. dollars overseas, and send 500 million tourists to other countries. China’s neighboring countries and countries along the Silk Roads will be the first to benefit. As we build the Silk Road

Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road, China will coordinate development strategies with countries along the Roads, with a view to creating new economic growth points and job opportunities for the people, so that the prosperity and development brought by the Silk Roads can benefit the countries, cities, communities and common people along them, and enable all to share the fruits of development and bask in the sunshine of prosperity and affluence.

Third, the people of Asia should be the active promoters of exchanges and mutual learning among Asian cultures. Exchanges and mutual learning among different cultures are important driving forces of the progress of human civilization and world peace. The stone wall at the entrance to the UNESCO headquarters carries the inscription of one single message in several languages: “Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed,” which fully elaborates the significance of enhancing exchanges and mutual learning among cultures.

Like water, cultures subtly nurture people. Asia is among the birthplaces of the ancient civilizations of the world. Cultures are diversified. No matter Chinese, or belonging to other parts of Asia, all cultures are the crystallization of human work and wisdom. Cultures are equal, for there are no better or worse cultures. Cultures are inclusive. All achievements of various cultures are worth respect and cherishing. The peoples of Asia need to engage in exchanges and dialogue among cultures and enhance mutual learning to promote the harmonious coexistence of various races, religions and cultures. Such exchanges and mutual learning should serve as a bridge to strengthen friendship among the peoples of Asia, a driving force of social progress in Asia, and a bond to preserve peace and stability in Asia.


Fourth, the dream of the Chinese people is one of peace and development, and one closely associated

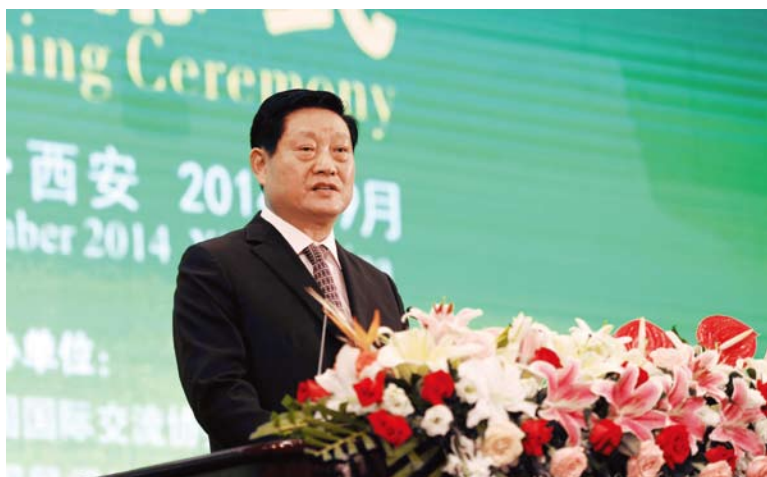
with the dream of all peoples of Asia.

Through over three decades of reform and opening up, China has continually improved the life of her people, and made historic progress with its development. At the same time, we are also soberly aware that, as big as the Chinese economy is, China’s per capita GDP ranks only around 80th in the world, and there are more than 200 million Chinese people still living under the poverty line. To enable all 1.3 billion Chinese to enjoy a well-off life, we still need to work hard for a long time. Therefore, we have set the objective of becoming a socialist modern country by the middle of the century.

The Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is a dream of peace, a dream of pursuing happiness through peaceful development, and a dream shared by every Chinese. Having experienced so much pain and suffering, the Chinese people hold peace dearly to their heart. We hope to work together with other peoples of Asia to pursue, preserve, and enjoy peace. The Chinese dream is about giving everyone the chance of self-development and making contribution to the society, letting everyone live with dignity and enjoy better education, more stable work, more satisfactory income, more reliable social security, better healthcare, more comfortable living conditions, and more idyllic environment. The Chinese Dream is a dream of the pursuit of happiness by the Chinese people, and also it is related to the dreams of other peoples of Asia. In the process of materializing their dream, the Chinese people will also help other peoples of Asia to do the same.

Even a journey of a thousand miles starts right beneath our feet. Today, let us sow the seeds of the ideas of peace, hoist the sail of peace; let us unite to be a strong force against various traditional and non-traditional security threats; let us make joint contributions to peace, stability, and prosperity in Asia, and to the implementation of the right of peoples to peace.

Thank you! 



ZHAO ZHENGYONG

Secretary of the Shaanxi Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), China

On behalf of the CPC Shaanxi Provincial Committee, Shaanxi Provincial Government, and the more than 3,700 people of Shaanxi Province, I would like to congratulate on the opening of the commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2014 here in this beautiful ancient city of Xi'an and extend my warm welcome to all the guests present here today.

Peace is a shared vision of peoples across the world. Guaranteeing national security and people's safety is the foundation and prerequisite for world peace. The Chinese nation has always cherished and advocated peace. Chinese people have always embraced the philosophy of seeking harmony but not uniformity for common development. The growth of China is based on the belief that harmony is precious and all nations should be united. At the Fourth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in May this year, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech in which he proposed to advocate common, com-

prehensive, cooperative and sustainable security in Asia and to establish the new architecture of regional security cooperation. His practical proposal for strengthening future security cooperation in Asia has been highly commended by the international community and widely acclaimed among Asian countries. Themed "People Aspire to a Safer Asia", this commemoration event is intended to provoke in-depth discussions about the peaceful development of China and other Asian countries, and to seek all-round, pragmatic security cooperation. It is bound to exert far-reaching impacts on the peace and prosperity of Asia and even the world.


Shaanxi is one of the cradles of the Chinese civilization. Its capital Xi'an, known as Chang'an in ancient times, was the capital city of China in 13 dynasties, and played an important role in the peaceful exchanges between China and the rest of the world, Asian countries in particular. The ancient Silk Road that Zhang Qian opened up over 2,000 years ago and Xuanzang's pilgrimage to India more than 1,000 years ago both started here on

this land; they conveyed to the world one message that Chinese people are friendly and value peace. In recent years, Shaanxi has made impressive achievements in developing its economy and improving people's life by seizing the opportunities presented by China's reform and opening-up policy and Western Development Strategy. From 1999 to 2013, Shaanxi's GDP grew at an average annual rate of around 14%; its per capita GDP approached USD 7,000; the incomes of urban and rural residents saw an average annual growth of 13.3% and 16.6% respectively. While speeding up economic growth, Shaanxi has also introduced more exchanges with China's neighboring countries and regions. We have established friendly relationships with 63 provinces/states and cities in 28 countries, and attracted investments from more than 80 Fortune 500 companies. We receive more than 3 million foreign tourists every year. Shaanxi has become an important showcase for the Chinese culture and Chinese people's friendliness. Currently, we are working hard to implement the strategy of building a Silk Road economic belt proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping. Giving full play to our strengths in locality, energy, science, education, culture, etc, we are striving to develop Shaanxi into a new starting point of the Silk Road economic belt and set a good example of friendly cooperation between China and other Asian countries for shared security and mutual benefit.

As one of the organizers, Shaanxi will spare no effort in providing quality and efficient service and creating a good working environment to ensure the smooth organization of this event. I believe that the seeds of hope we sow today will bring us fruits to enjoy tomorrow.

I wish you all happiness and good health!

I wish the commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2014 a complete success!

Thank you! 



BAN KI-MOON

Secretary General of the United Nations

Today is the International Day of Peace.

Each year, on this day, the United Nations calls for a global ceasefire.

We ask combatants to put down their arms so all can breathe the air of peace.

Armed conflict causes untold grief to families, communities and entire countries.

Too many are suffering today at the brutal hands of warmongers and terrorists.

Let us stand with them in solidarity.

Peace and security are essential foundations for social progress and sustainable development.

That is why, three decades ago, the United Nations affirmed the right of peoples to peace.

Throughout the coming year, we will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations.

Our organisation is founded on the pledge to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

We have made much progress.

But much remains to be done.

We must douse the fires of extremism and tackle the root causes of conflict.

Peace is a long road that we must travel together – step by step, beginning today.

Let us all observe a minute of silence, at noon.

Let us all reflect on peace – and what it means for our human family.

Let us hold it in our hearts and minds and tenderly nurture it so it may grow and blossom. 🇹🇲



ALAIN NOUDÉHOU

*UN Resident Coordinator and
UNDP Resident Representative in China*

I am very pleased to take part in this event today to commemorate the International Day of Peace. It is highly befitting and symbolic for this event to be taking place in Xi'an. As we are all aware, Xi'an is one of the cradles of Chinese civilization, having served as capital city for 13 different Chinese dynasties. And literally translated, Xi'an meaning is "Western Peace" and an older name of this City, Chang'an, means "perpetual peace".

I would therefore like to thank the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament for their active promotion of peace and for organizing this special event in Xi'an.

My sincere appreciation also goes to the Shaanxi municipal government authorities for their arrangements and gracious hospitality.

We are all gathered here today because we are committed to promote peace.

For more than 30 years, the International Day of Peace has been celebrated in countries around the world in an effort to recall and rekindle the spirit of hope that led to the foundation of the United Nation in 1945.

Peace is indeed one of the pillars upon which the United Nations was founded. Promoting peace is a core

value of the United Nations as reflected in its Charter which indicates that the organization was created with our collective commitment to "save succeeding generation from the scourge of war".

From this great city, we want to send a message of hope. We want to reiterate that peace is possible when all of us, live up to our responsibilities to construct protect, and promote a peaceful society.

The theme of the 2014 International Day of Peace is the "Right of Peoples to Peace". This was chosen to mark the 30th anniversary of the General Assembly Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace.

Today's celebration of the International Day of Peace comes at a time when the world is immersed in crises and conflicts.

These crises deprive millions of people from having a dignified life. They put tremendous pressure on governments and pose a serious threat to development and harmony within and between nations.

The United Nations is actively engaged in finding solutions to these crises.

Through our development and humanitarian programs, as well as through preventive and active diplo-

matic efforts around the world, the UN promote dialogue, mutual understanding among peoples and nations, and seek lasting solutions to conflicts. Fighting poverty and discrimination, advocating for equitable development and access to social services and economic opportunities by all are the fundamental basis upon which peaceful and prosperous societies are built.

In addition to our development and diplomatic engagements, the UN also facilitates peace keeping in post conflict settings. Today, there are a record number of military, police and civilian personnel—almost 120,000—serving in 17 missions around the world. The UN is also very grateful for the strong support and contribution from China, with approximately 21,000 Chinese personnel deployed as part of UN peace-keeping missions.

In conclusion, let me therefore reiterate that only in a peaceful society can we realize our full potential as individuals or as nations.

The UN Secretary General is his message of the day is calling for us to make our voice heard in our communities, to speak for peace, and work for peace.

I wish you all a very happy International Day of Peace! 🇨🇳



CHAMAL JAYANTHA RAJAPAKSA

Speaker of the Parliament, Sri Lanka

It gives me great honor and pleasure to be here today in this beautiful, time-honored and culturally-rich city of Xi'an, one of China's four ancient capitals, for the commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2014. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD) for your invitation.

As we all know, H.E. Chinese President Xi Jinping made a historic visit to Sri Lanka several days ago. This time, I have come to China with the warm and sincere greetings of Sri Lankan people. Being here reminds me of the exciting moments when H.E. President Xi was visiting us back in Sri Lanka.

The commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2014 here in Xi'an has received much attention and great acclaim from across the world. I think it highly significant that China, Sri Lanka and many other peace-loving countries are brought together by events like this.

The theme of this event is "People Aspire to a Safer Asia". I sincerely hope that peace will find its way to every home in Asia and every corner

of the world and the ancient Asian civilizations will thus continue to thrive. I believe that every one of you aspire to peace as I do. The desire for peace is from the deepest part of everyone's heart. Therefore, we each have the responsibility to do our bit for world peace.

In Asia, every great religious leader we believe in has stressed the importance of peace. Among them, the greatest messenger of peace is Gautama Buddha. I would like to share with you some remarks he made about peace. As he said, real power and greatness is not simply about winning thousands of battles or defeating thousands of well-trained soldiers on the battlefield but more about defeating yourself. He also said that "peace comes from within; do not seek it without".

As we all know, the UN sets the theme of this year's International Day of Peace as the "Right of Peoples to Peace". The right to peace is one of the most basic human rights so such a theme is very appropriate.

In today's world, some countries and regions are still suffering from unrest and perpetual war. We need to do everything possible to avert tragedies brought by war and conflict. Our ap-

proach should be different and more pragmatic and practical.

Led by President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Sri Lanka has eradicated terrorism and established lasting peace, which is in the best interests of our country and our people. Now Sri Lanka enjoys peace and stability. We have entered a new period of national reconstruction and economic development.

Today, I would also like to talk about the special responsibility of Parliament composed of representatives of the people and committed to building peace. Members of Parliament come from different parts of the country, work in different sectors, and represent different ethnic groups and religious and political factions.

As far as I'm concerned, the loss of peace in a country is fundamentally caused by the failure to resolve the conflicts between different ethnic groups or races in a just and timely way. I think that the differences and conflicts can be resolved transparently and impartially through Parliament by building a dialogue mechanism. On the democratic platform offered by Parliament, the views of the representatives of all sides can be fully expressed and understood; through dialogue on an equal footing, some


narrow-minded democratic, religious and factionalist views will be gradually removed and an acceptable solution will be agreed on by the representatives of all sides.

Civil war has ended in Sri Lanka but we have set up a special body to promote the unity and cohesion between Sinhalese and Tamils, two major ethnic groups of our country. We have established a special committee in Parliament to perform such a function; the committee is composed of representatives of all political parties and ethnic groups in Sri Lanka. Members of Parliament and this special committee often meet to discuss national affairs and important issues; the representatives of all sides speak their mind freely, listen to each other's views patiently, and reach a broad consensus eventually.

There is one thing that deserves special attention. If the internal conflicts of a country keep brewing and ultimately develop into terrorism, it will pose serious threats to the peace of the country, the region where it is in, and even the world.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Today, we are brought together here to look at what we have done for building world peace and what we have achieved in this regard. I would like to share with you once again the Buddha's remarks about peace. We each can do something for peace. I hope that we can all gain inspiration from the remarks, cultivate our mind, and do our bit for world peace.

Thank you! 



DEMETRIS CHRISTOFIAS

Former President, Cyprus

Permit me to express my warm thanks to the Committee for Peace and Demilitarization of the People's Republic of China, and the other organizers of this gathering, which aims to honour the day of peace and to remember together the suffering and devastation brought about by the two world wars and so many regional wars since then.

The catastrophic Second World War, which was caused by the militarist and fascist axis, cost tens of millions of lives and led to incalculable material damage. It ended with the unjustified and inhuman dropping of nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. After the war the international community established, along with the foundation of the United Nations, rules governing the behaviour between states in order to prevent the outbreak of new wars and to consolidate peace; rules termed as International Law. The prevalence of peace and implementation of a policy of development and prosperity for the inhabitants of this planet requires the consistent application of the rules of International Law and the continuous mobilization of the peace-loving forces for the defence of the people's rights to life, develop-

ment, education and social welfare in general. This is the reason why Peace Councils were set up at national and international level.

Are the principles and rules of International Law years after the catastrophic Second World War indeed being respected? The answer is that the principles and rules of International Law are not being respected. The proof lies in the tens regional wars that have been launched and are being waged, with disastrous consequences in all corners of the world. What is the cause of the disrespect of International Law and its rules and by whom?

The source of the erroneous situation is the same one that gave birth to both fascism and militarism and brought the Second World War. That is to say, the acute exploitation of the planet's human and natural resources arbitrarily and arrogantly by the monopolies and multinational companies.

There are numerous examples one can cite. I will refer to the characteristic examples of the Middle East, aiming at the exploitation of oil and gas, as well as to Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yugoslavia. In addition, the dozens of coups d'état are the tools of the monopolies and aggressive blocs in Latin America and Europe to



The opening ceremony is in progress.

impose regimes.

The dissolution of the Soviet Union and the community of socialist states in Europe were considered by the expansionist forces of imperialism and various hawks of the military - industrial complex, as a suitable golden opportunity for the prevalence of a system plundering the natural resources of countries and peoples, all over the world. For these expansionist and inhuman policies to prevail, these very same cycles created "Al-Qaeda", Osama bin Laden and international terrorism. They created Saddam Hussein and various other dictators in Africa and Asia, as well as the jihadists, who are today committing brutal crimes and intimidating humanity. The imperialist forces have opened the floodgates, and are reaping what they have sowed. However the storms they have unleashed are deceiving and victimizing entire peoples. The system of exploitation and oppression of the people when in a deep crisis gives birth to and revives fascism and militarism.

In commemorating the Day of Peace we must point out that peace is being ignored, which is the pressing need today. Peace has been missing, for 40 years now, in my country as well, Cyprus, which imperialism sees as strategically important, given that it has a vital geographical position - the key that connects Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa in general. Cyprus as far as the expansionist

forces I have referred to are concerned constitutes an ideal military launching pad and base. This was demonstrated during the Suez crisis, during the wars between Israel and the Arab countries and during the crisis and invasion of Iraq. This is why, the Cypriot people, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, are suffering due to its use by the Athens junta and the fascist elements within the Greek Cypriot community, to overthrow President Makarios, who refused to yield to NATO and the Turkish invasion that followed the coup d'état and subsequently imposed the military occupation of 37% of its territory - also implementing an expansionist policy.

Our government, under the Presidency of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of AKEL, the Communist party of Cyprus, followed a multilevel and balanced foreign policy of friendship and cooperation with all the countries of the world, regardless of their socio - economic system. It upheld and based its struggle on the principles of International Law, which formed a protective shield in the efforts to find hydrocarbons in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone.

All these years where peace in Cyprus is missing and my country and our people are suffering from the military occupation, it has always enjoyed the support of the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union and subsequently until now of the Russian Federation, the French Republic, the

permanent members of the UN Security Council, and utilised its accession to the European Union in the efforts to solve our problem.

The relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Cyprus are based on insisting together on the principle "One Cyprus - One China". Our relationships expand in depth and breadth, both in the political, and the economic - cultural field. They are relations which contribute to the prevalence of peace and cooperation and represent an example of how relations between states should be forged.

I grasp this opportunity from this podium as well to express the sincere thanks and gratitude of the people of Cyprus and the Party from which I come from for the consistent and unconditional support rendered by the People's Republic of China to Cyprus and our people, both in the Security Council of the United Nations, as well as in other international organizations too.

I believe that in today's world the People's Republic of China plays a role of a force for stability, the role of a defender of peace, security and cooperation, both in Asia, Africa, and the world in general. This is also the message to be drawn from the speech of President Xi Jinping, which he delivered in the Fourth Summit on Cooperation and Confidence Measures in Asia, which was held recently in Shanghai. 🇨🇳

HUSSAIN MUHAMMAD ERSHAD

Special Envoy to the Hon. Prime Minister, Former President, Bangladesh



My greetings and good wishes to all of you. Each one of us who have assembled here deserves felicitations and congratulations for their commitments towards peace in Asia. I must thank the 'Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD)', the 'Shanxi Provincial People's Government' and the 'UN system in China' for co-sponsoring this commemorative activity for the International day of peace 2014 (23-24 September 2014), in Xian'an Shanxi, China. I pay my special regards to the Vice President of China His Excellency Mr. Li Yuanchao for attending the opening ceremony and delivering a key-note speech.

International day of peace is commemorated every year, but this year it bears special implications and significance for the continent of Asia, especially in the context of the historic remarks His Excellency Xi Jinping the honorable President of the People's Republic of China made at the Shanghai Expo Center on the 21st May 2014, during the Fourth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). China currently holds the chair of CICA. I draw your attention to the second half of the famous speech of His Excellency the President of China on 21st May 2014 where he explained the importance of CICA and publicly offered all support to strengthen CICA. I fully endorse the proposal of His Excellency the President of China, to make CICA a security dialogue and co-operation platform for all of Asia. In my capacity as the Chairman of Bangladesh's Opposition Party in the Parliament of Bangladesh, the Jatiyo Party, and in my capacity as the 'Special Envoy to the Honorable Prime

Minister of Bangladesh', I would like to express hopeful satisfaction that CICA will fulfill the high expectations of His Excellency the Honorable President of China. As a former President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and a current Member of Parliament of Bangladesh, I believe that only China has the wherewithal to initiate and push forward these ideas regarding interaction between nations and countries. China needs to lead this launching and promoting of confidence building measures among countries and nations of Asia. China had made great strides and established itself as a major player in the international arena in the context of economic, technological, and military might and making multinational friendships. I commend China's efforts, and I pray for their success. The people of my party and the people of Bangladesh in general are great well wishers of China and your leaders.

Our Asian cultures are sewn together on a rich and cohesive social fabric. In a family brothers and sisters cling around their parents, and in the absence of parents, around the eldest siblings; the nations or countries of Asia are also members of a larger family—the Asian family. It is natural to have elders in a family. China can and should play the role of one of the elders in the Asian family. China's current status in terms of economic progress, military strength, contribution to the security environment of the whole world, and finally the goodwill enjoyed by China from other countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, makes China an easy leader and initiator.


Let me now switch over to another aspect of concern of this August conference. It is about security. At the very outset let me borrow a few words from the remarks of H.E. Xi Jinping. Asia needs common security. Security must be universal. Security must be equal. Security must be inclusive. Security must be comprehensive and multi dimensional. Security must be

co-operative. Security must be sustainable. Having served in the Pakistan Army between 1952 and 1971, having served in the Bangladesh Army between 1973 to 1986 where the last 8 years were as the professional head of the Army, having been in politics and President of my country Bangladesh for 9 years, I believe that, one could not have possibly chosen better words than what has been done by HE the President of China to explain and rationalize the concept of security for Asia. Let me now add a few more.

To achieve peace and maintain peace, one must understand the parameters of peace. One must appreciate the threats to peace. One must be able to arrest these threats. The arrest can be done or executed by certain means. One of the means is economic development concurrently among neighboring countries. Another means is, consultation among nations and countries, and exchange of views among leaders of countries or representatives of the people of various countries. That is exactly what we are doing now. From this platform today, we may offer our difficulties, our apprehensions as well as our demands for mutual consideration. I do so personally, as well as on behalf of the peace loving people of Bangladesh. Bangladesh is making all-out efforts to create an environment of security within its own boundaries and beyond the boundaries embracing our friendly neighbors. Bangladesh and China do not share common border on land, but the South-Eastern grounds of China are only a hopping-distance away from the Eastern frontiers of Bangladesh. China is neighbor to two of Bangladesh's neighbors on the East, namely India and Myanmar. India, Bangladesh and Myanmar, all have long shore-lines with the Bay of Bengal, and Bay of Bengal is but a wide open gateway to the Indian ocean. Therefore, quite logically China can aspire to bathe in the open blue waters of the Bay of Bengal. This process will add towards enhancing friendship and confidence among the nations

around the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean.

From this Rostrum, in this august gathering, I appeal for international peace. I appeal for mutual respect among the nations and countries of Asia. I appeal for consideration of the difficulties of each other. I urge upon the distinguished gathering here in this room to collectively join in our aspiration for peace. I am the citizen of a country which is geographically small, but significant in terms of population. Bangladesh can not make intended progress towards becoming a middle-income country shortly if the people of Bangladesh do not feel secure in their minds and the country does not feel secure among its neighbors. There are some irritants to disturb the environment of security, but none of them are beyond control. It only needs appreciation by our neighbors. What I say about Bangladesh, is true for many more countries including Bangladesh's neighbors. So let us go back from this august conference, with a distinct vow to make my neighbors feel secure. If my neighbors feel happy and secure, then I am sure to be happy and secure, because security is collaborative, cooperative, reciprocal and mutual. I pray for prosperity for Asia.

I end with profound thanks to the Chair and the distinguished audience. 



YU HONGJUN

*Former Vice Minister of the
International Department of the CPC
Central Committee, Vice President of
the CPAPD, China*

The commemoration of 2014 International Day of Peace, themed with “A more secure Asia aspired by people” is highly relevant. To begin with, I would like to share some views on Asian security.

Firstly, problems in the realm of traditional security are worrying. Outdated security perspectives and security systemic structures left by the cold war are threatening Asian peace and development, yet some countries still believe in backward security approaches including military alliance, threat of force and power politics; unsettled historic issues like the legacy of WWII and the cold war, as well as territorial and maritime disputes are still hovering around, while the Korean Peninsula is under confrontation; civil wars are ongoing in countries like Iraq and Syria, while regional hot-

spot issues and difficulties like the Palestine-Israel conflict are emerging.

Secondly, non-traditional security is faced with a severe situation. With the development of globalization, non-traditional security threats including economic security, energy security, food security, natural disasters, public health, cyber security, and terrorism and drug crimes are growing all the more acute, becoming new threats for Asia.

Thirdly, Asian people have become the biggest victim of all security threats. On one hand, civilians are the major victim of war. More than 500,000 people have been killed or injured during the Afghanistan war. Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and several millions of people are displaced due to the Iraq war. Nearly 200,000 people lost their lives or got injured because of the Syr-

ian civil war. On the other hand, non-traditional security threats are severely blocking the development of Asian countries. In recent years, numerous lives and treasures have been wiped out due to natural disasters and diseases in several Asian countries. 8 out of 10 countries in the world that were most heavily attacked by terrorism in the last two years are in Asia. More than half of the almost 10,000 terror attacks around the globe in 2013 were in Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Several terror attacks have also happened to China, which hugely threatens national security and social stability.

The destiny of Asia is in the hands of Asian people, and the security of Asia is to be maintained by Asian people. Now I would like to share with you 5 points of view on building a more secure Asia based on the theme of our activities:

Firstly, we should respect differences, champion fairness and inclusiveness, and pursue common security and universal security. The differences and diversity among Asian countries are distinctive, and the joint splendors of different civilizations facilitate an Asia full of vigor, vitality and potential. Only mutual respect and equal treatment among countries can help reduce conflicts and frictions, thus realize peace and security. Security should be universal and equal, and we can never accept a situation that only some countries are secure while others are not. China is willing to work with other Asian countries to respect and guarantee the security of every country and strive to jointly build Asian community of common security.

Secondly, we should promote the establishment of regional security architecture in a coordinated way through various channels with comprehensive policies. As the Chinese adage goes, “The fire burns high when everybody adds wood to it”. Asian security issues are extremely complex, since no country can deal with them by itself or avoid their effects, there is clearly a bigger need for countries to cooperate to face security challenges. However, the Asian security cooperation mechanism is yet to be improved, the security cooperation is yet to be deepened, and the efforts of relevant countries are yet to be integrated to address security issues. We should make full use of current regional security and dialogue cooperation mechanism and try to improve it, and explore to promote the establishment of North-eastern Asian regional security cooperation mechanism. We should step up exchanges and communication among various cooperation mechanisms so as to form a strong force to maintain regional security. China is willing to work with other Asian countries to defend traditional and non-traditional security in a coordinated fashion, especially invest more efforts to address and jointly fight against the “Three Evils”, and nourish the Asian common

community of responsibility with patience.


Thirdly, we should strengthen dialogue, enhance mutual trust and carefully cherish the Asian common community of destiny. In Asia, the cold-war mentality has not been wiped out yet and there are still many hot-spot and sensitive issues, thus it is not easy to construct mutual trust among countries and realize regional security order; that being said, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence initiated in the 1950s by China, India and Myanmar are emerging as basic principles guiding international relations. Over the years, Asian countries have been striving to develop and complete many security dialogue mechanisms on the basis of mutual trust and cooperation. In the future, Asian countries shall focus on common security interests of each other and resolve disputes beginning with less sensitive areas with Oriental wisdom through peaceful means, dialogue and cooperation, so as to promote harmony and jointly nurture Asian common community of destiny.

Fourthly, we should enhance development and cooperation in order to consolidate the basis of Asian security. The tree of peace will never grow from barren land. For many Asian countries, security is the most tremendous development. At present, Asian economic volume accounts for a third of the world, the regional integration keeps growing faster, and the aggregate trade volume within Asia is 50% more than that of Asian countries combined. The fact that Asian countries are concentrated on developing economy has led to closer and closer ties of interests among them, thus the hot-spot issues in this region are generally under control. China strives to build friendship and partnership with its neighbours and practices the principle of boosting amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness. China actively carries forward Silk Road economic belt and other major regional cooperation initiatives, and deeply engages in regional

cooperation process. China welcomes people from more countries to take the opportunity of its development so as to jointly establish the community of common interest for Asian people.

Fifthly, mutual respect and sound interaction among major countries is the fundamental guarantee to maintain Asian security. The interests of major countries are relatively concentrated in Asia, and their interaction deeply affects regional peace and security. Major countries should abandon the cold-war mentality, regard the strategic plans of other countries objectively and rationally, respect the interests and concerns of each other, and deal with international challenges through cooperation. This is the expectation of regional countries and the responsibility of major countries. China will continue to carry forward the establishment of new model of major-country relations, and promote Asia to build the architecture for security and sustained development.

A stable Asia is a blessing for world peace, and a prosperous Asia is a contribution to world development. The Chinese people are willing to treat other Asian people equally and live with them peacefully, so as to work for the realization of the Asian Dream of enduring peace and common development.

Thank you! 

DONG JUN

*Mayor of the People's
Government of Xi'an, China*



In the beautiful ancient city of Xi'an, the distinguished guests attending the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2014 gather to share ideas about peace, development and win-win cooperation. Here, on behalf of the CPC Xi'an Municipal Committee, the People's Government of Xi'an, and all citizens of our city, I wish to extend warmest welcome to all guests.

The Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2014 has built an important platform for Chinese and foreign delegates to increase mutual understanding and deepen friendship and expand cooperation. This year, the Commemoration is held in the city of Xi'an, which shows the recognition by all attending parties of the status and role of our city. The event also provided us with a rare and precious opportunity to increase our communication with representatives from different sectors of China and the rest of the world to learn best practices and forge consensus.

Not long ago, President Xi Jinping stated while attending the 4th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia that China will work with all sides to advocate common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security in Asia, establish a new regional security cooperation architecture, and jointly build a road for security of Asia that is shared by, and win-win to all. President Xi's words echoed the common aspiration of the peoples of Asia for peace and security, and gave new impetus to the win-win development of Asian countries.

As the starting point of the Silk Road, the city of Xi'an has witnessed many historical brilliant moments of East-West exchanges. In as early as Han Dynasty, it was already an international commercial center teeming with businessmen from various countries, assorted shops and businesses, as well as treasures from all over the world. In Tang Dynasty, Xi'an became an international metropolitan with

over 1 million residents – the only one in the world back then, and over 20,000 of the residents were foreign businessmen and diasporas. Today's Xi'an is not only a city with rich historical and cultural heritage, but also an open, fashionable, and vibrant modern city. We are building it into a major international city with distinct historical and cultural features.

In recent years, friendly cooperation between Xi'an and Asian countries has deepened. The city successfully hosted the Euro-Asia Economic Forum for 5 consecutive times, and the Silk Road Mayors' Conference for two times. Over 80 of the Global 500 businesses have set up branches here in Xi'an, among them the most typical should be Samsung's memory chip plant.

Peace and development are themes of today's world. The flower of peace needs to be cultivated and irrigated by cooperation and development. We live in a global village of globalized economy, multipolar politics, and information-based societies. Mutual

respect, equality, good-neighborliness, and win-win cooperation form the foundation of China's relations with other Asian countries. By leveraging the advantages enjoyed by the starting point of the Silk Road, we will continually deepen the friendship and cooperation.


First, Xi'an will leverage its advantage as a traffic hub to promote connectivity. Xi'an is one of the 6 railway hubs and one of the 8 regional airline hubs of China, and boasts a dense highway network as well. It has become an important traffic hub and logistic transfer station on the Eurasia Land Bridge. As we accelerate the building of a modern comprehensive traffic and transportation system, this status will be highlighted even more. We stand ready to take this advantage to provide services to the flow of goods and people as well as economic development in Asia and along the Silk Road Economic Belt. We are also willing to implement the international agreements on traffic facilitation, and work with relevant sides to build a multi-dimensional traffic network encompassing railways, highways and airways.

Second, Xi'an will leverage its advantage of its feature industries to strengthen win-win regional economic cooperation. After years of development, Xi'an has become an important industry base in China for ICT, aeronautics and astronautics, high techs, and equipment manufacturing. The city is also a world-renowned tourist destination. These are all solid foundations on which we build domestic and international cooperation. Under the current circumstances of accelerated restructuring of factors of production and transfer of industries on a global scale, we are willing to cooperate in these areas with cities from other Asian countries and along the Silk Road Economic Belt, matching our complementary advantages for win-win results, so as to achieve more rapid and sound growth of the regional economy.

Third, Xi'an will leverage its advantage of geographic location, to expand the areas of trade and cooperation. Sitting at the geographic center of China, Xi'an is an important regional center in western China. With the shortest logistic radius to various parts of China, and strong connectivity as a traffic hub, Xi'an can naturally become a logistics center. In recent years, Xi'an has set up an International Port District which has established seamless connections with major ports of Shanghai, Tianjin and Qingdao, and the border port of Horgos in Xinjiang. In the city, there are also two export processing zones and two comprehensive bonded zones. As the state steps up its support to Xi'an's effort to build a major international city, the advantages will be further strengthened. We hope that with these favorable conditions, we could deepen our domestic and international cooperation to make trade and investment more convenient.

Fourth, Xi'an will leverage its advantage of cultural resources to promote the infusion of the Chinese and Western cultures. As one of the origins of the Chinese civilization, Xi'an served as the capital city for 13 dynasties. Known as a "natural museum of history," Xi'an is home to a great number of cultural relics with distinct characteristics of the Chinese nation, reflecting also the early exchanges between the Chinese culture and other Asian cultures. The Silk Road is the historic evidence of the dialogue, cooperation, joint development, and mutual learning among various cultures. In today's world of rapid globalization, the spirits of the Silk Road – shared win-win economic development, mutual learning and inclusive development, are still highly relevant. Xi'an will more actively take the initiative to expand the tourism cooperation based on the Silk Road, focus on the development of cultural industry, and build a Silk Road cultural and tourist belt through cooperation, so as to make new contributions to the cultural exchanges in Euro-Asia.

In the past, the ancient Silk Road witnessed the great friendship and success of countries of Euro-Asia. In the future, the Silk Road Economic Belt will bring our countries closer to each other. Let us join our hands to build the Silk Road Economic Belt on the principles of "unity and mutual trust, equality and mutual benefit, mutual tolerance and learning from each other, as well as cooperation and win-win outcomes," and strive for peace, development and prosperity in Asia.

Thank you! 



ANATOLY KARPOV

*First Deputy of the State Duma
Commission on Economic Policy,
Innovation Development and
Entrepreneurship, Russia*

First of all, please allow me to extend my greetings to you on behalf of Mr. Sergey Nikolaevich Shishkarev, Chairman of the Transport Committee of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, and wish the International Day of Peace forum a complete success.

The people-to-people diplomacy between our two countries can be traced back to the 1970s. I know exactly what happened because I personally witnessed the whole process. In 1982, I became President of the former Soviet Union Peace Foundation. In 1991 when the Soviet Union was disintegrated, we managed to keep the organizational structure and staff of the foundation unchanged. As Russian President Vladimir Putin said, the disintegration of the Soviet Union is the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century. Despite the catastrophe, we maintained the continuity of the organization. So far, I have served as President of the International Association of Peace Foundations for 25 years.

I was elected to the State Duma in 2011 and have led some large Russian and international NGOs, including

environmental organizations such as Green Russia and charitable organizations such as Russian Heritage Foundation. I have also participated in a series of UN humanitarian projects.

Over the past 50 years, I have been involved in many peace-building and environmental actions as well as major events that affect the world as a whole. Such experiences help me to understand what has happened in this world thoroughly. I would like to share with you some of my views in this regard.

We live in a complicated world. We entered a new millennium in 2001, according to the Western calendar, but I think the real 21st century has just arrived.

Today's world order is no longer in line with the expectation and hope of mankind. The crisis of civilization is worsening and every global crisis involves many problems.

Admittedly, ecological crisis comes with social development. The food crisis provoked thereof has caused starvation and claimed millions of lives, children in particular. We are also faced with land degradation, deforestation, and the extinction of wild species that have existed for more than a million

years. Equally devastating is the financial crisis. It will take decades for its social impacts to fade away. A financial crisis leads to setbacks across society and benefits only a small number of financiers who would drag the whole world into the abyss of social disaster for their own interests.

We each are responsible for what the world has suffered from. Our naive idea of partnering Western powers and excessive credulity thereof lead to the result that Western countries have considered themselves the highest judge over human rights, ecological and other humanitarian issues in the past two decades or more. Western views are the final rulings that defy any doubt and justify all crimes.

Any government that is politically independent from the Western world is attacked blatantly by the media. Major multinational media agencies have instilled their views on international events to the general public through various means and their reports are serious distortions of the truth. The most recent case in point is the report on the Malaysia Airlines passenger plane's being shot down over Ukrainian airspace. Many media agencies identified the "murderer" as Russia in the first place. All facts were overlooked by Western media.

The truth was buried in the lies of Western countries and the lies were spread widely. No progress has been made in the investigation. Since the Ukrainian side refuses to provide any information, experts cannot get hold of the factual materials. The results of investigation have been postponed to be published in 2015. It means that Russia will continue to be blamed irresponsibly and groundlessly in the next year and a half.

As for the truth about the Ukraine incident, it may be as what NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen told to the Wall Street Journal, "We are facing the opposition of oppressive forces. Such forces oppose our system of liberty and democracy as well as the liberal international order built on

international rules”.

It may also be as what Russian people have said jokingly. “One day, a group people gathered on the Independence Square. Among them, there were ambassadors of the United States, France, Spain, Germany and Denmark, as well as US Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, US Senators Chris Murphy and John McCain, German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Catherine Ashton, former President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili, Dutch Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans, member of the European Parliament Jacek Protasiewicz, Foreign Minister of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius, Lithuanian Speaker at the Seimas Loreta Grauzinienė, former Prime Minister of Poland Jarosław Kaczyński, and member of the Senate of the Czech Republic Jaromír Štětina. They all accused Russia of interfering in Ukraine’s internal affairs.” This is just one example. There are hundreds of more such examples.

What we do may be unknown but our efforts will eventually produce results. Although the media including the Internet are subject to regulation by authorities, the diversity in values which used to be advocated by Western democracy is still being undermined. The media have recently unveiled some facts which reveal that rulers in the New World Order adopt morally irrelevant double standards in politics.

Such double standards are still plaguing Russia. For example, since the 1990s, Western countries have provoked dozens of military conflicts in competing for natural resources. Mostly, they did that on the grounds of “having no choice”, “defending democracy”, or “promoting the establishment of democracy” In the 1980s, they said, “We help you fight for democracy to ensure that not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down”. It turned out, however, that the democracy Western countries talked about was never established, economy was destroyed, society frag-

mented, hundreds of thousands of people killed, millions of people lost their loved ones, and tens of millions of people displaced.

However, Western leaders do not care about how to prove the value of democracy because they are looking at global goals, such as gaining exclusive rights and privileges so that Western civilizations will dominate the world. The effort to protect Russian people from being killed and the country from sanctions by Western powers is scolded outrageously by the media with such words as “genocide” and “aggression”.

NATO leaders have declared openly that they would use force unilaterally if strategic interests are at stake. They said and I quote, “When the lives of citizens are threatened, the survival of citizens cannot be guaranteed, or the security of an ally, homeland or lifestyle is threatened”, they will use force unilaterally even without a resolution adopted by the UN Security Council.

As the great Chinese sage Confucius said, the first step of doing anything is the “rectification of names”; “If names be not correct, language is not in accordance with the truth of things. If language be not in accordance with the truth of things, affairs cannot be carried on to success”. As we see it, the “rectification of names” is to use proper designations of things. We have compiled a large number of materials about the courses of social, economic, and political development as well as the losses incurred by going against the law of development. I hope that such materials will be translated into other languages and then published as soon as possible.

Let’s introduce openness and honesty to the politics of the world through people-to-people diplomacy. Let’s speak up and distinguish white from black. As a professional chess player, I feel quite confident when it comes to distinguishing white from black. Aggression in whatever names is in essence aggression. Despite good intentions or the consent or acquiescence of any authorities in the interna-

tional community, all wars and crimes against humanity are to be blamed.

I can see that SCO and BRICS countries agree on this, despite their wide cultural differences. We should make our voice heard in the international political arena based on factual information, impartial analysis of the situation, and truthful media reports.


We have failed when we are deprived of the right to participate in the development of humanitarian standards, and no longer supervise the behavior of Western NGOs, which become a tool of propaganda for Western countries, completely controlled by world financial oligarchy and living on dollar printing machine.

We have failed but we have not lost the whole game. We can at least achieve success in the field of humanitarian cooperation which can be developed through people-to-people diplomacy at first.

I propose to establish an international non-governmental council involving large multinational humanitarian organizations.

According to experience in the past decades, this international organization should accomplish the following major tasks in the next few years: a. Supervising peacekeeping operations undertaken by international governmental organizations, UN agencies and NGOs. b. Establishing an impartial and independent world humanitarian rating system, focusing on a couple of important fields. c. Putting together professional volunteer teams to carry out humanitarian operations in different fields worldwide. d. Supervising the media and exposing reports against the objectivity standard. e. Selecting experts on humanitarian cooperation and compiling a list of such experts.

I hope that this issue will draw your attention and actions will be taken soon. Lastly, I wish all delegates and distinguished guests attending this forum success in your work and greater achievements in promoting people-to-people diplomacy.

Thank you! 



AKKAN SUVER

*President, Marmara Group Foundation,
Turkey*

Today, we have gathered here to talk about peace. First of all, I would like to thank to Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament for inviting us here. In addition, I would like to present my appreciation for those who organized this event in these days that the world needs peace abundantly. I would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of peace. The principle of Atatürk, "Peace at home, peace in the world", delivered us 90 years ago as an internal and foreign policy evaluation.

"Peace at home, peace in the world" is the principle of Modern Turkey, in addition, it is the linchpin of Turkish foreign policy. On top of that, this principle which is also written in 1961 and 1982 Turkish Constitutions and guiding the all sort of state policies; is not only a linchpin; but also an ideal law, as well.

On the one hand "Peace at home, peace in the world" principle aims to live in peace and tranquility domestically; on the other hand, it aims international peace and security. This principle is the ground of both domestic and foreign policy understanding of Turkey.


Kemal Atatürk stated that the re-

sponsibility of peace is not for one state but the international community; and it cannot be achieved as long as the suffering continues by saying: "Turkey responded all calls for peace wherever it has been issued, and never begrudge her help. Endeavoring for the happiness for the whole world means endeavoring for your own happiness. We should consider humanity as a body and a nation should be considered as this body's part. A pain in the finger creates pain other parts of the body. If there is a problem anywhere in the world, we shouldn't say 'Not my bag', on the contrary we should pay attention to it". The sole expectation of Turkey from these endeavors is achieving the world peace and protecting it by following the principle of "Peace at home, peace in the world".

Today, world became a global village as a result of globalization. Now, the fact of interdependence gained great importance and this fact made states inseparable from each other. In this environment, any kind of political, economical, religious or ethnic conflict have a great potential to spread other parts of the world (Like in the Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq, Syria and ISIL cases). This is the greatest risk of

today's world compared to past. Therefore, international community requires a common understanding in order to cooperate against the potential threats that offend global peace. This common understanding can be achieved only by a universally internalized principle. In my opinion, this universal principle is "Peace at home, peace in the world" which means on the one hand resolving the clash of ideas with reconciliatory approaches domestically, on the other achieving and preserving the world peace by receiving support from this civil peace. That sort of approach may seem utopian at first glance when considered the sophisticated word issues; however at least it can be said that it is not impossible. Faith and trust give lives even for the most impossible things. Hence, Turkey became an island of peace and stability in the region by her faith and trust to the principle of "Peace at home, peace in the world". In short, Turkey is good example in this regard. It is not a remote possibility to achieve universal peace if nations of the world achieve an awareness that they are dependent each other, they are meaningful living creature with the "other"; in addition if they stress "cooperation" rather than the issues of "conflict".

Humanity can only reach this point with the motto of "Peace at Home Peace in the World" that is a collective consciousness which is created by unique and universal understanding of Atatürk. By the help of this principle, world nations think of their interests on individual basis (Peace at home). Likewise, world nations also think of other nations that are from different cultures, languages, religions and races (Peace in the world).

Future world can sustain its existence by avoiding of wars, conflicts and disagreements. World can live in peace and steady. It is only possible with peace in countries, regions and the world. With understanding of "Peace at home Peace in the world", humankind will understand that there is no another world to live together. 



ZAGDJAV DELEG

*President, Peace and Friendship Organization,
Mongolia*

I want to thank the People's Republic of China (PRC) for organizing this Peace Conference to strengthen Eastern Asian and other countries collaboration and confidence.

On top of my appreciation I'd like to express my hopes for the successful outcome of this conference on behalf of the PFOM, the affiliated international friendship associations and also the thousands of delegates and supporters.

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to PRC for accepting our proposal to include the Russian Federation in the future and happy that the Russian Federation is giving consideration to take part in said activities.

I'm pleased to say that this conference will play an important role in discussing and solving problems such as: securing not only Asian but world peace and security, strengthening all round cooperation and mutual trust, conserving our environment, fighting against the armaments race and terrorism, respecting independent states and their territories, ensuring liberty for the entire human race.

Developing all round collaboration with Asian countries and taking part in regional integration is our main goal in Mongolian foreign policy. Mongolia has always tried to contribute in the effort to solve Asian and global problems. Providing security for not just Central Asian territories but other countries, expand the development of the global economy and other departmental collaborations.

I want to stipulate that we are assembling during a time where the United States and western countries, under UN protection, continually break their promises to the free world by breaking their agreement to not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. By doing this they are fuelling terrorism with military force and weaponry while stripping the country of its natural resources, despite the fact that the civilian population continues to suffer.

We should be pushing for a UN General Assembly conference to further debate this matter with discussion. To ensure that we achieve our mission, agreements discussed at this General Assembly should be strictly adhered to.

For this we need to take the following steps. Firstly; expand Shanghai Cooperation Organization's economical collaboration; create a currency we can use amongst each other, furthermore develop it into an international monetary network.

Secondly: Russia, China, India, member countries should form a military allegiance whereby forces can share strategic theories and training methods. Our combined forces can be mobilized effectively where military assistance is needed with the formation of a



The High-Level Dialogue is in progress.

functional strategy based headquarter.

There is a famous saying in Mongolia that quotes, “A ruse should be answered with a ruse”.

The Mongolian Head of State participated six times in The SCO to strengthen relationships with The SCO member organizations, observers and participating countries.

Mongolian president Ts. Elbegdorj participated in the 14th Conference of the SCO member countries’ head of states council held in the capital city of Dushanbe in Republic of Tajikistan. It was a first time meeting between the neighbouring country leaders RF president V.V. Putin and PRC president Xi Jinping and the Mongolian president. The main goal of this meeting was firstly, to agree to meet every 3 years in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia calling it the “Ulaanbaatar Meeting”. Mongolia considers itself the closest and most reliable infra-structural connection to Asia to Europe on the Russian side, and Europe to Asia from the Chinese side. Due to this awareness Mongolia considers it highly important for these 3 countries to meet as frequently as possible. Secondly, our request for Mongolia to be a member of APEC will be supported during the Beijing APEC conference.

Last month, during the PRC head of state Xi Jinping’s official visit to Mongolia he said, “I hope China and Mongolia will become close neighbors

and friends with mutual trust. We will uphold the guidelines of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness in neighborhood diplomacy.” He added that China would support Mongolia to join the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

Mongolia, a border country to 2 nations with nuclear weapons, has for 20 years declared itself a “nuclear-weapon free zone” and is working towards that objective so it remains true. In September 2012 five countries with nuclear weapons not only accepted and respected this status, but has assured not to violate those terms. This proves that our nation can contribute to creating a nuclear-weapon free World.

This June in Ulaanbaatar many scholars and researchers participated in a conference held to expand North-east Asian and regional countries’ bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to promote “Ulaanbaatar Dialogue” on the issue of Northeast Asian security. The “Ulaanbaatar Dialogue” gravitates toward our contribution to provide regional security, a steady progress and to support mattering parties to participate more.

Mongolia is a very uniquely located country. Mongolia is the only country in the world that is solely situated between RF and PRC, which is why our chief foreign policy objective is to have friendly relations with both of our neighbors. Mongolia’s foreign

policy also includes having not only friendly relations but to have a mutually beneficial relationship with other countries of the world and to contribute on our part in matters of international crisis.

The civilian wars happening in Syria, Ukraine is quickly becoming a major global crisis in international relations. Mongolia believes that this issue should be solved diplomatically and harmoniously through politics.

I’d like to thank the Russian Federation for consistently holding the position of peace keeping and the Russian president for boldly standing against the possible outcome of this matter-war.

I would also like to note that with the Mongolian economy growing gradually our multilateral and mutually beneficial relationship with Asia Pacific regional countries can be further developed in the mining, energy, and infrastructure industry.

Mongolia would like to again state that we will continue to work closely with the countries involved in this peace conference for the improvement of peace in Asia, progress and growth in countries, and finally for the well being of the human race.

Thank you for listening. 



HAN FANGMING

Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Committee of the CPPCC, President of the Charhar Institute, China

Asia, which means “the place where the sun rises”, is a name given by westerners. It is known as a region characterized by long history, big population, cultural diversity, and complex political and economic systems. Under the impact of the Western world, the modern times witnessed Asian countries experience the suffering of foreign invasion and colonialism, and win their national impendence after long and arduous struggles. However, since the end of the WWII Asian countries, while boasting rapid economic development, have dragged their feet in security cooperation. With major natural disasters such as hurricane, flood, earthquake and tsunami striking from time to time in recent years, Asia has not only become a community of shared interests with countries intertwined with and interdependent on each other, but also a community of common destiny that are bound together for good or ill and face increasing common security challenges.

However, security in Asia till now basically relies on self-reliant system built up by countries on them own. With doubt and misgiving prevailing, Asian countries still have to resort to their self-relief systems when extraordinary calamities happen. However, numerous international incidents have proved that a country can not deal with its security problems alone even if it is armed to the teeth. Cases like 9/11, Ukraine Crisis and Syria conflicts show that a new era is upon us. Asian security calls for a common security architecture to keep out the wind and rain, and ensure Asian people plain sailing. Looking around the Asian-pacific region, we would find that no country can escape the scourge of turbulence if it is located in a hotspot region, Korean Peninsular, East and South China Sea, Afghanistan, and Middle East, to give just a few examples. Common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security in Asia has become a historical task facing all Asian governments and people, and a powerful trend throughout the world.

Guided by its basic state policy of Reform and Opening-up, for decades China has occupied itself with economic development and managed to greatly uplift its economic power and comprehensive strength. With increasing international influence, China has put more and more emphasis to provide security public products to the international community, especially its Asian neighbors. It has been actively fulfilling international obligations, advocating a new security concept featuring comprehensive, common and cooperative security and committed to promoting the establishment of new regional security architecture. On 21st May, 2014, President Xi Jinping proposed on the Fourth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence

Building Measures in Asia that “it is necessary to advocate common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security in Asia. We need to innovate our security concept, establish new regional security cooperation architecture, and jointly build a road for security of Asia that is shared by and win-win to all.” The core of this Asian security concept is to govern security issues so as to build long-term peace and order in Asia.

To build a safer Asia, I would like to make the following suggestions:

First, establish a common security system in Asia. Asian security is shared by all, and an important part of global security. Therefore, it is important to change from passive maintenance of security into active pursuit of security. Countries must break their traditional antagonistic pattern of thinking, and pool their strength to build a common security system. A communication platform which ensures information-sharing, resource-complementation, and coordinated and consistent communication is needed to coordinate security actions by various countries so as to increase the speed and efficiency of relief efforts.

Second, establish a comprehensive security early warning mechanism. Asian security is comprehensive, a complex of both conventional and non-conventional security. Various parties in the region must strengthen non-conventional security cooperation while maintaining their conventional security cooperation, consult each other to build a mutual-help mechanism of disaster pre-warning, emergency rescue and relief, and post-disaster reconstruction to minimize the impact of natural disasters and enhance the protection of people's life and properties. Countries must strengthen in-depth cooperation in risk management of meteorological disasters with regional


division, risk forecast and impact evaluation as its focus. Exchanges and cooperation to prevent meteorological disasters at grassroots level must be strengthened, with establishment and development of community-driven disaster prevention and reduction model and early-warning information release methods at grassroots level as the priority. Meteorological information must be shared in real time.

Third, establish cooperative security dialogue mechanism. To ensure security for any country in Asia, not only national security, but more importantly security of all countries in the surrounding region needs to be emphasized. Countries need to make concerted efforts to deal with a certain security issue, join hands to address security threats and eliminate hidden hazards. Relevant countries need to establish a mechanism for regular high-level dialogue and frequent diplomatic contacts to deepen regional disaster prevention and reduction cooperation. Extensive and in-depth dialogue and consultation can sweep away political obstacles and take regional security cooperation further.

Fourth, establish sustainable security mutual-assistance mechanism. Development is the foundation of security, while better security is the aim of security. Only when security and development are combined, can there be strong guarantee for security. With the promotion of regional integrity, Asian economic system has increasingly become an organism. Closely interconnected infrastructure, management institutions, information network and social norms can serve as strong guarantee for common development of Asian economy, which are the foundation for Asian development and the aim for Asian security.

Fifth, strengthen peace education and integrate it into formal educa-

tion system at various levels. Peace is humanity's fine ideal. It is not only a theoretical concept, but a systematic science with practical significance. Born in 1950s, Peace Studies as a systematic discipline was not introduced to China until the beginning of 21st century, so it is not a familiar concept for most Chinese. While many other countries like U.S., Japan, ROK, and some European states have established systematic peace education, provided Peace Studies courses and set up Research Centers for Peace Studies in institutes of higher learning, China is still in an initial stage to carry out Peace Studies research and education. However, the last decade has seen Peace Studies emerge in universities all around China, and specialized Peace Studies courses win positive response from university students. Peace education should not be confined to in institutes of high learning, it can play a bigger role and attain better effects among teenagers whose values have yet to take shape. Therefore, on the basis of existing Peace Studies in colleges and universities, we need to extend the education to middle and primary schools, set up peace education courses tailored to suit pupils, so that peace education start from our children. The next generation who is currently in schools will be the driving force for future peace-building in China, Asia and the world at large. Only when they are educated on peace, hold peace dear to their heart, and learn methods to deal with conflicts at a young age, will they understand “Right of Peoples to Peace” and how to create a “more peaceful Asia”. It is fair to say that our biggest hope for peace lies in peace education.

In conclusion, security in Asia needs concerted efforts of Asian people. I hope that we can join hands to build a safer Asia together. Thank you. 

ARUN KUMAR

Secretary, All India Peace & Solidarity Organisation, India

At the very outset on behalf of the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO), I thank the organisers for giving us an opportunity to present our views on “Asia Calls for a New Concept of Security” – such a crucial issue at an important juncture of world developments. In today’s globalised world it is an illusion to think that any one country can live in peace. As President Xi Jinping said, “Security must be universal”, we cannot just have the security of one or some countries while leaving the rest insecure, still less should one seek the so-called absolute security of itself at the expense of the security of others”.

This year marks the centenary of the First World War, called at that time as the “war to end all wars”. Hundred years since, it is really unfortunate that peace and security still remain elusive, with the world ridden with many war torn regions and perennially under threat.

Our continent Asia is home to 67 percent of the world’s population and accounts for one third of the global economy. Its rich natural and vast human resources continue to attract imperialist forces, leading at times to forcible military interventions. No wonder that the US had prioritised this

region for furthering their strategic interests. US President Barack Obama stated “After a decade in which we fought two wars that cost us dearly, in blood and treasure, the United States is turning our attention to the vast potential of the Asia-Pacific region...As the world’s fastest-growing region – and home to more than half the global economy – the Asia-Pacific is critical to achieving my highest priority...With most of the world’s nuclear power and some half of humanity, Asia will largely define whether the century ahead will be marked by conflict or cooperation, needless suffering or human progress...I have, therefore, made a deliberate and strategic decision – as a Pacific nation, the United States will play a larger and long-term role in shaping this region and its future...we will allocate the resources necessary to maintain our strong military presence in this region...Our enduring interests in the region demand our enduring presence in the region...” Accordingly, the US decided to reposition its Navy so that 60 per cent of its warships would be assigned to the Asia-Pacific region by 2020. It is also promoting re-militarisation of certain countries in the region and actively involving in the disputes between various countries.

Many countries in our region, all



The "Focus Session I: New Security Perspective in Asia" is in progress.

of us neighbours, have varied perceptions about our boundaries, sharing of water resources and other such matters of bilateral concern. Many of these issues are in fact a result of our shared colonial legacy – the colonialists after being defeated in the respective countries, left these lands divided and sowed seeds with serious problems, which continue to fester tensions even today. Imperialism, in order to gain a foothold in the region, is trying to reap the fruits and intervene on all such issues, by encouraging divisive forces and thus threatening peace, security and sovereignty of our countries. We should be vigilant against these nefarious designs and uphold our hard-won independence and sovereignty. Whatever issues we face, should be and can be resolved bilaterally through discussions and not through armed conflicts.

In order to establish and continue its unquestioned superiority, US imperialism needs to increasingly control the world's economic resources, especially energy sources, and particularly oil. Therefore it paced up its preoccupation in West Asia. Afghanistan occupies the central position in the US strategy for the economic control of the oil and gas resources in West and Central Asia. Afghanistan is also the crucial link to transport these resources to the nearest sea port to facil-

itate the generation of unprecedented profits for the world's oil majors. The military propping up of Israel and the perpetuation of the West Asia crisis is a direct consequence of this need to control the politics and regimes, elevating "regime change" as imperialism's legitimate right in order to establish control over the resources of this region.

In a sense these developments in West Asia reflect an effort for a re-division of the spheres of influence and control between the imperialist powers. Post Second World War, using Israel as the linchpin, the US began its efforts to increase its spheres of influence. To a large extent, the conflicts in this region date back to this period with contending claims amongst imperialist powers. One enduring legacy of the British colonial empire was engineering and leaving behind the conflicts that continue to plague the present independent countries – Indo-Pak, Palestine-Israel, etc. The "New Middle East" project, introduced by the US and Israel, is for realigning the whole Middle East and thereby unleashing the forces of "constructive chaos". This "constructive chaos" – which generates conditions of violence and warfare throughout the region – would in turn be used so that the United States, Britain, and Israel could

redraw the map of the Middle East in accordance with their geo-strategic needs and objectives. Moreover, the Anglo-American military roadmap appears to be vying an entry into Central Asia via West Asia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan – the stepping stones for extending US influence into the former Soviet Union and the former-Soviet Republics of Central Asia. It is indeed an irony that on the centenary of the First World War, which took place to divide the Ottoman Empire, the efforts to re-draw such a division consequent to the First World War is what is happening today, in essence.

US need countries with friendly regimes in this region to pursue its strategic objectives. It is unconcerned about the peoples' aspirations in these countries and doesn't shy to trample upon the sovereign, democratic rights of the nations and people. And even if ensuring a pliant regime demands the promotion of religious fundamentalist forces, imperialism is not averse to it. The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood was first established with a grant from the British Suez Canal Company and thanks to US support and Saudi funding, it was able to grow and proliferate. It is by now an established fact that many of the terrorist organisations that are threatening the security of our region like the Al Qaeda and the ISIS

are Frankensteins created by the US.

It is also well-known how the United States and its Western and Arab allies (especially Saudi Arabia), funded various early Islamist movements to undermine Left-leaning, nationalist governments and progressive forces in the Muslim world. “We wanted to explore the possibilities of building up King Saud as a counterweight to Nasser,” Eisenhower wrote to a confidante. “The king was a logical choice in this regard; he at least professed anti-Communism, and he enjoyed, on religious grounds, a high standing among all Arab nations”. This makes it amply clear that imperialism and religious fundamentalist forces work to weaken the progressive forces. To quote a senior CIA official, “the optic was the Cold War. The Cold War was the defining clarity of the time. We saw Nasser as socialist, anti-Western, and we were looking for some sort of counter-foil. Saudi efforts to Islamise the region were seen as powerful and effective and likely to be successful. We loved that. We had an ally against communism”.

The weakening of the progressive forces is a declared objective of imperialism, as they represent the genuine and consistent pro-people, anti-imperialist force. By systematically attacking the progressive forces, imperialism succeeded in creating space for ultra right-wing, often religious extremist forces. Imperialism as ever is keen to use this growth of fundamentalist forces in our region to intervene and destabilise our countries and gain a permanent foothold. It is upon us to resist the growth of fundamentalism, unite all sections of the society and foil the attempts for dividing our unity. As the famous scientist Albert Einstein had put it: “Whether we find the way of peace or continue along the old road of brute force, so unworthy of our civilization, depends on ourselves. On the one side the freedom of the individual and the security of society beckon us; on the other, slavery for the individual and the annihilation of

our civilization threaten us”.

Building peace, cooperation and security is the engaging concern before all of us today. As the representatives of the peace-loving people of Asia, it upon us to push our respective countries on the path of peace – the world indeed is big enough for all of us to grow prosperously.

One of the important ways to build peace is to increase the cultural, social and economic ties between the countries of the region. Our countries, home to some of the ancient civilizations in the world, are historically bound together by these very ties. We are here today meeting at one such city which has a glorious past – Shaanxi. In fact, Shaanxi, is one of the two end points, starting/finishing points of the ancient Silk Route, which was used to transport not only goods for trade, but also was a meeting point for various cultures and social systems. Along the road, it was not only goods that were exchanged, but cultural practices too. In the process, it is not just one country, China, where the road had originated or the destinations points in Europe that had benefited, but all the countries enroute had enriched themselves.

Similarly, there is the “Spice Route”, which is an exact mirror image of the Silk Route, albeit a maritime trade route. The Southern province of Kerala in India was an important centre in this route and hence had all through, attracted foreigners and later day colonialists. Revitalising our relations through an increase in economic and cultural exchanges through these two routes would be enormously beneficial to all our countries and would also go a long way in the establishment of peace and security in the region. One should, after all not forget that these routes are inhabited by close to 3 billion people and represent the biggest market in the world with unparalleled potential. We should use this vast potential judiciously such that the people of our countries benefit. Imperialism and out-


side forces should not be allowed to exploit our resources or weaknesses.

Strengthening people to people relations, not only helps in deepening the bonds of friendship, but also is one of the surest ways to check the game-plan of divisive forces. Historically our people roamed on these lands freely, debated ideas and became wiser in the process. They learned from each other, noted the similarities, respected the differences and developed a deeper bonding. We believe that strengthening the people to people relations will help us in resolving whatever problems that exist between our countries. After all, no mountain, however high it might be, is insurmountable.

Friends,

Allow me to conclude by once again quoting President Xi Jinping: “We should expand the scope and means of cooperation and promote peace and security through cooperation. We should stay committed to resolving disputes through peaceful means, stand against the arbitrary use or threat of force, oppose the provocation and escalation of tensions for selfish interests, and reject the practice of shifting trouble to neighbours and seeking selfish gains at the expense of others. In the final analysis, it is for the people of Asia to run the affairs of Asia, solve the problems of Asia and uphold the security of Asia. The people of Asia have the capability and wisdom to achieve peace and stability in the region through enhanced cooperation”.

Once again I wish to thank the leadership of CPAPD for organising such important event.

Thank you. 



LUXMAN SIRIWARDENA

Executive Director, Pathfinder Foundation, Sri Lanka

It is a great pleasure to be here in the ancient and historic city of Xi'an to commemorate the International Day of Peace 2014. I am deeply grateful to our partner, the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD) for their kind invitation as well as the excellent arrangements and generous hospitality that have been afforded to us. I also appreciate the opportunity to interact with so many NGO leaders from China and other parts of the world.

The theme of this sub-forum is very topical. We are living at a time of elevated geo-political risks, most notably in the Middle-East and Ukraine, with a number of potential flashpoints in other parts of the world.

Differentiation of Threats

It is important to understand the nature of different threats before one can address a new concept on security.

Geo-political Threats - stemming from major power rivalry and tensions. The last phase of globalization

during the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries ended because the rise of Germany and Japan in the global economy could not be accommodated in an orderly fashion. Today, we are moving from a hegemonic world dominated by the US to a multipolar world, with China as the major rising power. While multilateral institutional frameworks are stronger today than they were in the early 20th century, it is still important to ensure that this transition is handled in an orderly fashion – as much as possible within a win-win positive sum framework.

Regional Threats - involving a number of countries. For instance, the Palestinian/Israeli conflict which has the potential to lead to a regional conflagration draws in Iran and other Arab states. The instability and extreme violence associated with the Islamic State also has various layers, including the Sunni – Shiites conflict which has regional dimensions.

Bilateral Threats – these can have a historical basis, such as the India-Pakistan tensions, or involve bilateral land or maritime border issues e.g.

India-China, South and East China seas.

Sub-national Threats – these generally entails threats to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nation states e.g. the Tamil separatist threat in Sri Lanka which ended in 2009. This Tamil subnational threats or terrorism was mainly trained, strengthen and equipped by, unfortunately, by our closest neighbor.

External drivers to bring regime change. Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya are good example of this. The key lesson to be drawn from these experiences is that those who seek regime change have discovered that they fracture states and are confronted with extreme, if not impossible, nation building challenges. While Iraq and Libya were not democratic states in the Western sense, they were stable and broadly secular. The externally induced destruction of these states has led to chaos and instability which has breed violence that has undermined peace and stability at the national and regional levels while elevating global geo-political tensions.

Henry Kissinger in his very recent book the 'World Order' has said that seeking to implement American Values "by military occupation in a part of the world where they had no historical roots" proved "beyond what the American public would support and what Iraqi society would accommodate". Threats with transnational dimensions which require international cooperation include "terrorism, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and piracy on the high seas". Technology based cybercrimes and international espionage activities (WikiLeaks) etc.

No Externally Induced Fixes

Each of these threats has different causalities and manifestations. Hence, there is no simple one-size-fits-all recipe for addressing them. The very simplistic notion that the democracy (i.e. elections) would solve all problems has been proved to be wholly

misguided, not least in Egypt. Each situation needs strong and inclusive institutional mechanisms to address the underlining problems on the basis of mutual respect. These can be national, regional or multilateral, depending on the nature of the problem. One clear lesson which has to be learnt is that externally induced quick-fixes do not work.

Up to now, I have focused on various types of threats and the difficult challenges posed by them. Let me now turn to preventive action. What is the new concept on security which we need to bring about a more peaceful and prosperous world?

Failures and Disasters of Hegemonic Interventions

During the Cold War global security was based on the hegemonic role of the two super powers US, USSR, underpinned by the concept of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD).

Since the end of the Cold War, the world has been struggling to develop a new concept of security which could address both the end of the old order and the emergence of a multipolar world led by the rise of China.

The period of the US acting as the sole global hyper power or hegemon has been short-lived. Its record as the 'global policemen' has left much to be desired. The US, fortunately for us in the Asia, no longer has the fiscal capability or the domestic public support to play such a role. Most of all, there has been no consensus and wide spread resistance to a US dominated world order.

Different Dimensions of a New Asian Security Concept

What should be the different dimensions of a new concept on Asian Security? Here it is important to draw on some of the lessons from the success of the ancient silk route which linked Asia and Europe. The key lesson was

that exchanges on the basis of solidarity, mutual trust, equality, inclusiveness, learning from each other and win-win cooperation can be mutually beneficial.

The experience of the ancient silk route demonstrated that countries with different races and cultural backgrounds are fully capable of sharing peace and development.

In this respect, China's initiatives to revive the land-based silk route and to create a new Maritime Silk Route based on the principles of the ancient silk route are wholly commendable. They also complement the proactive role the Shanghai Cooperation Organization can play in deepening trust and cooperation. Stability in Asia can be facilitated by using the good political and social relations, geographical proximity and economic complementarity to construct a community of shared interests and mutual respect. These assets should be translated into drivers of tactical cooperation and sustained growth.

President Xi's Concept: Consultative, Inclusive and Visionary

President Xi has set out the following conditions to realize these objectives: Policy communication to build consensus in order to foster regional cooperation. Promoting unimpeded trade and investment. Building cooperation to settle cross-border payment in local currencies. Increasing understanding through expanded people-to-people contact. Mobilizing young people to be inspired by the vision of the 21st century being the Asian Century.


These efforts should be based on the following principles: Openness and inclusiveness, mutual understanding, respect and friendship, standing together with each other while casting away the cold war mentality, win-win cooperation based on mutual respect, build trust and good neighbourliness.

Sri Lanka – China Cooperation: A Mutually Beneficial March towards Progress

Finally let me say a few words about Sino-Lanka relations. Contact between the two countries can be traced back several centuries to the visits of the scholar/monk Fa Hsien and the fleet of Admiral Zhe. In modern times, the bilateral relations between China and Sri Lanka have flourished for six decades.

The Rubber-Rice Pack signed in 1952, was a major landmark in bilateral relations and established the principle of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries based on the principle of mutual respect. Sri Lanka defied the US and other Western powers, including the UK from which it had gained independence only four years previously and continued to have extensive economic ties, to sell rubber, a strategic commodity, to China against the backdrop of the Korean War. Subsequently, there has been strong cooperation across the economic, social, cultural, education and security spheres.

Throughout Sri Lanka's 30 year terror challenge, China remained a steadfast friend. At a time when Sri Lanka had difficulty in obtaining arms and ammunition China's support was crucial in maintaining the country's war effort to protect its unity and territorial integrity.

Since the end of the conflict in 2009, China has been Sri Lanka's pre-eminent development partner. It has assisted in an unprecedented development program encompassing the building of roads, ports, airports and power stations. An FTA with China is to be signed soon. It is expected to lead to significantly expanded trade and investment. Chinese FDI can play a major role in getting the best from the impressive infrastructure bill. There is also a rapid buildup in Chinese tourists to Sri Lanka. 



SOVACHANA POU

Deputy Director in charge of Research and Publication, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), Cambodia

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Mr. Zhu Rui, Secretary General of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD), for the kind invitation extended to my colleague and me to take part in the friendly exchange between CPAPD and our institute, the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace. We really appreciate the warm hospitality extended to us since our arrival to China.

I understand that this "Exchange Program for NGOs Leaders" is organized to promote practical bilateral cooperation and take joint initiatives between CPAPD and other relevant organizations to promote lasting peace, security, and development for all nations of the world. Today, I would like to share my perspective on "How Can People's Organization Contribute to Peace Security and Development" as follows.

As we all heard this morning session at the high level dialogue, today people around the world are facing many challenges in terms of having peace, security, and development. The current situation on peace and security in Asia and the world at large, includ-

ing the growing tension and conflicts between nations over the sovereignty on the sea and islands in the Asia – Pacific; the rebalancing of the United States to the region; the ongoing conflicts between Israel and the Hamas in Gaza; the rising terrorist aggression of the fundamentalist forces of the so-called Islamic States in the Middle East; the tension in the Korean Peninsula; the nuclear arm race; the complex situation in Ukraine; the impact of environment and global warming, and the deprivation of human basic needs such as human rights, food, shelter, health care and education; all have huge impact on people's live. These situations also raise an open question of how we as people's organizations can contribute to easing the situation and maintaining peace and security wherever the trouble spots exist. I will offer a few suggestions on the role of the people's organization can play to contribute to peace, security, and development. Then I will draw my conclusion based on the responses I have provided.

Let me begin by stating that I hold the view that we, as an organization of the people, can play a constructive role in the pursuit of a durable peace, prevent conflicts from happening or



Focus Session I: *New Security Perspective in Asia.*

escalating, ensuring that development policies are inclusive and sustainable, by uniting together to develop new way of thinking and acting on security issues, emphasizing on peace building, strengthening rule of laws, creating sustainable development policies in order to assure that our livelihood can be improved and our future is bright.

There have to be a way to solve territorial dispute in the peaceful manner without the threat of force or the use of military force. Affecting parties should adhere to international norms and resort to diplomacy for an effective negotiation and to avoid any misunderstanding. They should engage in building up mutual trust rather than compete with one another base nationalistic sentiment. They should uphold common interest rather than pursuing individual national interest exclusively. The people organization, such as ours, should support regional efforts in the finding of acceptable resolution to all parties in conflict. We must welcome more partners for peace, and avoid those who play out wider rivalries in our region and regional hegemony.

In addition, our people organization should also support firmly the abolition of nuclear weapons, weapon of mass destruction, including small arms

as this type of weapons creates catastrophic destruction toward nation and humanity and impede on the civilian lives. The disastrous effects of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombs are the reminder of this destruction in the history of mankind. Therefore, our people's organization should support fully the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). There should be a more strict use of small arms so as to avoid any harm and treat to civilian live by bandits and criminal groups. All forms of terrorism, separatism, and extremism must be eliminated at all cost.

With regards to human security, we must endeavor to promote sustainable and inclusive development. We must also pay serious attention to further develop any agenda and action plan that will promote peace-building through the abiding of the respect of human rights and justice and work harder to achieve the objective set forth in the Millennium Development Goal. We must stand prepare to assist countries which have been affected by armed conflict, terrorism, natural disaster, violence, and social injustice. We must help those people who have been affected by inequality and related social

and economic exclusion by working with others to provide essential services like drinking water, appropriate healthcare, and adequate education so as to allow so many people break away from the cycle of poverty.

In conclusion, in response to the situations I have raised above and in order to increase the role and involvement of people's organization to promote peace, security and development, I find that the initiative taken by CPAPD to convene this exchange program hold important and valuable contributions toward easing the tensions which we have witness within and among states. I am sure that if we work together collaboratively, we can make peace and security more durable which are prerequisite to sound development in order to lifting the lives of people out of poverty and ensure that they can live a life with dignity and free from suppression.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are all here today – representatives of small states, medium states and big and powerful states – and all on board of the same ship with the same common call to promote and maintain peace, security and development; we have to make sure it is not a “Titanic.”

Thank you very much for your kind attention! 🇨🇳



KAZYBEK SHAIKH

Chairman, Fund of Peace, Kazakhstan

The Fourth CICA Summit was held in Shanghai from May 20 to 21, 2014. The proposal of “new Asian security concept” has attracted worldwide attention. The idea of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was first proposed by Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev in 1992. Over the past 22 years, CICA has constructed a solid basis and become mature. The current trend is that CICA is serving as a forum for dialogues and consultations between all Asian countries on building the security cooperation architecture in Asia.

The “new Asian security concept” proposed at the Shanghai summit advocates common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security in Asia. It is an innovative continuation of the security concept featuring “mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination” that China put forward in the 1990s.

The “new Asian security concept” calls on all Asian countries to do their part in ensuring security in Asia. It emphasizes consultation and dialogue rather than military threat, encourages openness and inclusiveness instead of conflicts, and advocates win-win cooperation instead of zero-sum game.

I believe that the “new Asian security concept” means that all shareholders should strengthen dialogue to promote common security, reinforce all kinds of cooperation to ensure security in all aspects, enhance comprehensive security, promote mutual support of large countries, ensure security in cooperation, study the new security architecture and ensure its stability. There are initiative highlights that Asia will maintain peaceful, steady and rapid development in the next few years. It will be a result of concerted efforts, cooperation and coordinated action of all countries in the region as well as the effective interaction between and stability-preserving operations of large countries.

In the meantime, the incidents in Ukraine, Libya, Syria, Iraq and Palestine show that the world is still far from engaging in stable and rational dialogues. Disputes can only be resolved through friendly dialogue and cooperation.

We saw kind people kill each other. Now we must figure out why such tragedies have happened and how to prevent them from happening again. Today’s world has presented us new security challenges.

A country may exert significant influence on the situation in any other country in a very short time, even though they do not border each other or even are located in different continents. Human intelligence is also escalating on how to devastate the rivals. Hybrid warfare, information warfare, induced ethnic extremism, social, political and religious extremism, economic sanctions...these are just means of escalated conflicts and are only a very small part of the examples of using force for personal, political or economic purposes.

Peacekeeping organizations, scholars and activists, as defenders of peace and facilitators of conflict resolution, shoulder the responsibility for the whole of mankind. We should seek for the method, supported by many political instru-

ments, to stand up against antagonism and its advocates. Human beings should find a way to avoid bloodshed and to prevent the tragedy of a rational person killing another.

The famous Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko once wrote, “Not people die but worlds die in them”.

I think it is imperative to call on all participants in the current action to support, strengthen and consolidate the “new Asian security concept” and all initiatives aimed at safeguarding the security of the people. This will lead the mankind out of internal conflicts and unlock the potential to address external security issues.

We are also faced with challenges to the security of nature.

These include natural disasters, food security, global warming and ecological security. Let’s answer the call of “new Asian security concept” and work together on a series of initiatives.

The international symposium on the Silk Road Economic Belt was held on May 21, 2014 at the 7th Asian Financial Forum. The symposium was jointly organized by the Fund of Peace of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Secretariat of the International Eurasian Academy of Sciences (IEAS) and Chinese People’s Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD), with the generous support of the Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation. One hundred and twenty-two delegates from 18 countries attended the symposium.

The Asian Financial Forum attracted nearly 10,000 participants from 136 countries. Among the nearly 10,000 delegates at the forum every year are the heads of state and government, famous politicians, social activists, international organization and business leaders as well as prominent scholars and Nobel laureates. The forum’s agenda reflected the landscape of today’s world. More than 50 activities covered pressing issues such as global economic growth and recovery, conventional and alternative energy, promoting innovation and attracting investment, etc.

In the next few years, within the framework of the VIII Astana Economic Forum, our Fund plans to hold an international trade fair and organize “Eastern Silk Road Market” activities for enterprises hoping to sell products and do business in Central Asia.

I firmly believe that the revival of the Silk Road will be the economic basis for Asia to be the world’s economic powerhouse, achieve equality and build modern relations between nations. That will not be led by G7 or G20, but G-Global. The new model of international relations is built on the initiative of President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, and has gained support from all countries that seek a new mechanism to cope with global security concerns, inequity and world economic imbalance.

In ancient times, China reached out to the rest of the world with the silk it produced via the Silk Road. I believe that today’s China is capable of using its new tool – peace initiative, to connect the whole world through the revived Silk Road! 🇷🇺



GRIGOR PETROSYAN

President of Peace Committee, Armenia

Here I would like to make a speech on behalf of Armenia. In this country, monuments are built with words; during wars, people would rescue books like rescuing their children. The people’s memories are kept in books and words. Almost 1,000 years ago, the word “chinashharik” had appeared in the Armenian language.

For Armenians, the word “chinashharik” has a history of about 1,000 years, representing the highest praise for beauty and craftsmanship. Why did the ancient Armenians pay such a high compliment to China? I think that’s because of the virtues of China that are now applauded by the whole world – intelligence and friendliness, harmony and diligence, plus the ability to open up roads with words of wisdom, porcelain and silk rather than fire and sword.

It is definitely not by chance that the Silk Road still enjoys worldwide prominence as a symbol of the Chinese civilization. The Silk Road is not simply a road of trade and caravans as it literally means. It is of great value for all mankind. It is the so-called “soft power” in today’s politics and affirms what the great philosophies said over 2,000 years ago: “amenity and softness is brewing as apathy and hardness is dying. Apathy and hardness does not have such power that amenity and softness has”. The Silk Road runs through the Chinese history that has lasted thousands of years. It is dialogue, not war, labor, not looting, trade, not invasion, social equality, not exploitation, that are the old and eternal themes in China’s politics and the points that Chinese President and General Secretary Xi Jinping has emphasized many times in his speeches.

This is the first great inspiration the Chinese history provides.

The second is the Great Wall. A very few people who could not understand it often refer it as a monument to no avail, but men of vision regard it as inspiration for the entire world. The Great Wall is the best witness to the Chinese people’s love of peace. Although protected by the wall, the Chinese people experienced wars, not to invade others’ land, but to safeguard their own freedom and their right to live, work, love and build homes on their own land. As a symbol of the Chinese people’s love of peace, the Great Wall has stood erect for more than 2,000 years, testifying to the country’s advocacy and effort for world peace.

This is the second great inspiration

that China has given to the world.

This is also why I hope, in my brief speech, to pay tribute on behalf of my ancestors and contemporaries to the great nation forever etched in the Armenian language and to appreciate the profound significance of the Silk Road and the Great Wall. Chinese President Xi Jinping has recently made a speech in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan, saying “envoys, caravans, tourists, scholars and craftsmen have traveled on the Silk Road, learning from countries along it and promoting the progress of the human civilization”.

I would like to do my bit on behalf of my country to help interpret the new roles of China in this changing world. The world now has fewer walls and more bridges. Back in the 20th century, the great Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping demonstrated to the world that how remarkable achievements the Chinese people had made through their hard work, friendliness and understanding of historical lessons. We all should draw inspiration about peace and friendliness, non-violent reform and improving people’s life from Deng Xiaoping’s ideas about preventing social inequity and polarization, distributing products in an equitable way, establishing the urban-rural mechanism and protecting equal rights. I suggest that Chinese friends share with the world their valuable experience based on ancient Chinese philosophy.


It is not an exaggeration to say that without constructive dialogue between China and its neighboring nations, there would not be world peace and security. As one of the powers and magnets in this modern polycentric

world, China is able to play a unique and irreplaceable role in establishing the architecture of world security and peace.

As part of future efforts, I propose the following:

Deng Xiaoping Foundation and Academy should be established in Armenia to promote and spread the political ideas and practices of modern China. War and conflict are tearing apart the Asian continent, including my country. It is pressing to identify new, revolutionary, peaceful and constructive ways of resolving conflicts. China’s road is a road of peaceful development, like the Silk Road, a road leading to the future, not the past.

I hope that our Chinese friends will share with us their experience and help us to spread it. I hope that on the initiative of us, Deng Xiaoping Foundation and the branches in other countries will form a global network and be a comprehensive and effective security and cooperation institution to safeguard peace and family values, protect cultures and trade, and oppose violence and war.

Therefore, I believe that we will all see the third great inspiration China gives to the world in the 21st century. 



AGUS EKO NUGROHO

Senior Researcher, Indonesian Institute of Science, Indonesia

First of all, on behalf of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, I am honored to express my gratitude to CPAPD for inviting me to participate in the exchange program with various exceptional events; the celebration of the International Day of Peace, Art exhibition, the very interesting seminars, and various visit to local traditions, culture, custom and national heritage. I could especially understand the dynamic progress of development of People's Republic of China, their prosperity and most importantly the hospitality of the people.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Apart from having rapid growth and prosperity, many parts of the world today are still in a state of conflict, crisis and insecurity. The global warming issues and much other environmental degradation have the potentials to reduce the opportunity of our next generation to live better than us today. There is no indication at any sense that the economic and technological disparity between the north and the south is moving toward a lowering gap. The advancement of technology and economic development of the new millennium are seemingly incapable of providing equal opportunities and prosperity for all communities of the world. Without unified understanding and collaborative efforts among national leaders and all communities to solve those challenges, the world will far from being a better place to live. This Exchange Program of the CPAPD is one of invaluable efforts to promote cooperation among differ communities to realize the world as a better place.

Indonesia is a developing country that is working hard to accelerate growth and development, fight against poverty and disparity, and promote education and technology. The community of the country is in democratic transition, its people are still learning how to appreciate the precise value of differences and being accountable to their behavior and actions. This country needs technological supports from the world community to successfully precede its development agenda. It is in our constitution that the country should actively engage in international cooperation to promote the world peace and security. In this regard, Indonesia as part of the world community will have to support any program, as we are undertaking today, to make a better world.

Once again, we would like to thanks for the CPAPD for this invaluable invitation and hospitality, and we are looking forward to greater cooperation in the future. Finally, I close this speech with the hope for a greater prosperity of the Peoples' Republic of China. 🇨🇳



BAKHTIYOR KHOLIKOV

Deputy head of department of analysis and forecasting of foreign policy, Center for Strategic Researches under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Tajikistan

First of all, please allow me to extend my warm greetings to all of you and express my heartfelt gratitude to the organizer for the great hospitality and the good services and facilities provided for the event.

Enhancing global security strategy and regional stability is important for building the new international relations against the backdrop of globalization and pluralism. That is one of the basic principles that the Republic of Tajikistan adopts in its foreign policy. In the framework of policy diversification, Tajikistan has given special attention to the East, conducted multilateral and multifaceted cooperation with the Commonwealth of the Independent States (CIS) and Central Asian countries, and launched strategic cooperation with China and India, including jointly coping with new challenges and threats. The terms in Tajikistan's major diplomatic documents have confirmed the great sig-

nificance of interactions between state actors within the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and the basic principles and rules of SCO are completely in the long-term interests of Tajikistan.

The development trends of the world in the next few years require SCO to give greater attention to international information security and fight against cyber crimes. The recently adopted resolutions on establishing a long-term mutual support mechanism between member states have achieved certain progress in this regard. The efforts to establish a common crisis response center can also help SCO coordinate the common path in priority areas of activities concerning regional security, including countering terrorism, separatism, extremism, drug trafficking and other forms of organized transnational crimes. The memorandum of understanding signed between SCO Secretariat and CICA Secretariat will expand international relations, and strengthen the mutual assistance

mechanism between SCO and other international and regional organizations such as the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), OECD and ASEAN. In recent years, as to the issue on how to further tap SCO's potential, some expert panels have also discussed the feasibility of peacekeeping operations. Therefore, the recent implementation plan may only involve issues on strengthening common political and diplomatic efforts.

The economic element is of special significance in adding new vitality to SCO, but currently the level of economic activities is still lower than that in the security field. The specific direction for resolving fundamental problems has been determined recently, that is, to provide financial support for common projects and activities. The proposal on building the Silk Road Economic Belt that Chinese leaders made in 2013 is highly appealing to

SCO members, and in particular, the subsequent planning and implementation of the initiative may be combined with projects of the Eurasian Economic Community.

SCO enjoys great prestige in the international arena, due to the following factors: First, its huge economic potential; second, the unique locations of SCO member states; third, the composition of SCO; fourth, the diplomatic feature of SCO member states, i.e., effort to address all current issues through peaceful negotiations.

These factors have aroused the great interest of major Eurasian countries in SCO's activities. Iran, India, Pakistan and Mongolia are observers of SCO, and Belarus, Sri Lanka and Turkey are dialogue partners. Moreover, Iran and Pakistan have filed applications for full membership of SCO.

It is worth noting that the Declaration of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation sets out that SCO adheres to the principle of openness and is ready to have constructive dialogues with potential members. In addition, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter stipulates the four criteria for joining SCO. First, sovereignty; second, regional geography; third, law; fourth, compliance with the purposes and principles.

Tehran and Islamabad's willingness to join SCO indicates that a priority issue of the organization is to expand its membership. Admitting more countries will not only increase the number of member states but only change the direction of many initiatives. Therefore, expanding membership is not a technical issue but a political one. All opportunities to be brought subsequently must be demonstrated.

It is not the first year that global analysts and expert panels have held serious discussions on the complexities of the issue, but they have not reached a consensus on this, some supporting the expansion while others opposing it. I think that standpoint is the cause of differing opinions, i.e., whether the experts consider the issue from the

perspective of potential opportunities or potential problems.

However, the international political and economic landscapes have driven us to determine a series of key factors that have significant influence on the progress of membership expansion, including: First, the world geopolitical landscape; second, energy cooperation between large exporters and importers that intend to join SCO; third, collaboration on regional security; fourth, trade and financial relations.

I am glad to see that the resolution of the Council of Heads of Government on the MOU of the Obligations for SCO Accession and the resolution on the Procedures for Granting SCO Membership were signed at the SCO summit in Dushanbe from September 11 to 12, 2014.

We can all see the opportunity for SCO to expand its membership, and new member states constitute another potential of SCO. A new market will form in the economic realm, allowing SCO to launch great projects in any field that it is interested in. In the political sphere, dialogues will be more constructive and effective, thus allowing member states to better cope with the current challenges and risks.


At the summit attended by heads of state from SCO member countries in Yekaterinburg, President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon said, "We support SCO's efforts to expand its membership and believe that on the basis of unity and mutual support, the initiative will extend the influence of SCO around the world."

In fact, SCO has entered a crucial stage. It must make clear the direction of strategic development to fully prepare itself for the political, economic, military and humanitarian processes.

It should also be noted that today's world is very vulnerable. The risks and threats have not decreased, but are on the rise. Since the confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union ended, international relations have become more complex than ever. This is partly reflected in the cur-

rent crises in Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine. Countries involved in conflicts stand their ground and give tit for tat, unwilling to make any political compromise.

Now, it is universally believed that SCO has set a good example of the unique integrated cooperation to address acute and urgent regional issues through dialogue on an equal footing. It is because of the different structure of SCO from that of many other organizations that it has got the political, economic, military and humanitarian motives to expand its membership.

Expanding membership will not only help stabilize the military and political situations in Eurasia but also consolidate the social and economic life. The actions of SCO will thus become more effective and have greater influence. 



RABINDRA ADHIKARI

*General Coordinator,
Nepal Peace & Solidarity
Council (NPSC), Nepal*

Let me share warm greetings of friendship, peace and solidarity from the people of Nepal and members of Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council to the people of China and delegates present here. It is an honor for me and my organization to join commemoration of international peace day and the exchange programs among NGO leaders on the invitation of Chinese Peoples' Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD). I would like to thank CPAPD leaders and members and Government of China for availing this opportunity for me and delegates from our organization.

The exchange forums have been always proved beneficial in terms of promoting mutual harmony and peace as it provides opportunity to understand various perspectives, history, culture and political dynamics in the various parts of the world. We have witnessed in our lifetime that the

world has divided and even waged war and threats on the name of religion, identity, and during colonization and in neo colonization suppressed in the name of civilization and democratization. The problem of fundamentalism and increasing militarization is completely based on the wrong notion prevailing one culture and civilization supremacy over others; threats for preserving minority culture and civilization; and assimilating political colonization of culture and identity in small and economically vulnerable countries.

I believe all religions and cultures in all civilization, we have a common destiny that is mutual and peaceful existence of human community; preservation of nature and environment; cooperation and support for poor and weak; respect for each others' human values. In terms of political governance system as well, democratization can be defined and applied in different way in different parts of the world according to the Geo-political and social contest; yet they have a commonalities of peace, progress and prosperity for their citizens and in neighborhood.

As we all know that we live in diverse world with diverse identity and diverse culture and practices; we are confirmed that uniform formulistic lifestyle, political system and civilization do not fit in all society. Neither a single culture can be accepted and adopted nor that can better result for human being; rather promotes colonization and assimilation; ignite conflict and threat of war.


I believe that world shall remain diverse with respect for each other and a better understanding shall be promoted for peace and harmony. For such reason mutual exchange and learning are beneficial as it helps to understand diversity; acknowledge the differences; sharing of experiences; rectifying vulnerabilities to mistakes; and ultimately peace and mutual cooperation among each other. Exchanges at the level of people also help to unite different societies. We have witnessed

number of country in conflicts and separation of states; which is also because the mutual understanding has not been promoted at people's level.

Therefore, in coming days it is significant that we shall have efforts to increase the mutual exchanges and learning initiatives among the peoples' level through various ways and among different sectors.

On behalf of Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council, reflecting over the experiences of Nepal where 125 ethnicity live and more than 90 dialects are spoken with more than 10 religions practiced; I firmly can say that Nepal exist united with better understanding and recognition of the diverse identity and culture. We are also proud that we exist between two large countries with rising economy of the world China and India with mutual harmony and neighborhood peace. Due to the peoples' level interaction and exchanges between these three countries we have been maintaining the neutrality of Nepal and trust among each other.

In modern international relation, people centric and people lead securities are more stronger and efficient than militarized security and boarder control; therefore let's promote more exchanges and learning initiative and NPSC always there to cooperate on it's capacity.

Once again thank you very much for inviting me and my delegates and to share few words from our experiences. Solidarity for peace and cooperation. 



QUASSEM

*General Secretary,
Bangladesh Peace
Council, Bangladesh*

Welcome you all. Please allow me to thank the CPAPD comrades for offering me an opportunity to share my views on such an important issue at such a crucial time of history in this esteemed gathering.

I had been in Zinjiang in 1998. On way from airport to the city I noticed a number of big gates decorated with the slogan “Let Ziang go to the world, let the world come to Ziang”. This is an eternal message of mutuality and “give and take relationship”, which is true for all countries and civilizations, and has been carried forward through the ages. Civilizations have become richer and more colorful with exchanges and mutual learning. Such exchanges and mutual learning form an important drive for human progress and global peace and development.

Exchanges and learning between various civilizations and cultures dates back to the ages when people started trading. One example may be useful here. We all know about the Silk Road or the Silk Route which originated from China and travelled through China, Persia, Europe, Arabia, Persian, Rome, Armenia, Indian subcontinent, Bactrians during various periods of time. Though silk were the major trade item, various technologies, religions, and philosophies also travelled along the Silk Route introducing each other’s culture and promoting cultural ties among the civilizations by linking traders, merchants, pilgrims, monks, soldiers, nomads, and urban dwellers? Many artistic influences were transmitted via the Silk Road, particularly through Central Asia, where Hellenistic, Iranian, Indian and Chinese influences could intermix. Greco-Buddhist art represents one of the most vivid examples of this interaction. Silk was also a representation of art.

About fifteen hundred years ago, reverend Atish Dipankar, a Budhist monk from Vikrampur (Bangladesh) travelled to China and Indonesia for learning and disseminating knowledge. More than

thousand years ago, Nalanda (India) and Shalbon Vihar (Bangladesh) had been the centres of learning, where learners from different countries of the region used to come. Hsüan-tsang (Xuanzang c. 602 – 664) - a Chinese Buddhist monk and scholar is still referred to by the Indian scholars for his seventeen-year overland journey to India in 7th century for learning Buddhist sculptures. FaH-ien (Faxian 337 – c. 422) was another Chinese Buddhist monk and scholar who travelled by foot all the way from China to India, visiting many sacred Buddhist sites in Xinjiang, China, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in the 4th century to study the Buddhist scriptures.

The cultural influences can be seen in the development of Buddhism where for instance, Buddha was first depicted as human in the Kushan period in India, which has been attributed by many scholars to Greek influence. The mixture of Greek and Indian elements can be found in later Buddhist art in China and throughout countries on the Silk Road.

Such exchanges also took place through maritime trade routes across the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean sea, Persian gulf to Alexandria in Egypt and Guangzhou in China, Thailand, Malacca, Ceylon, Italy (Venice) in the Mediterranean Sea (East China and South China Sea Routes). In the early 15th century, Zheng He, the famous Chinese navigator of the Ming Dynasty, made voyages across the Western Seas to Indonesia archipelago leaving nice stories of friendly exchanges.

The over 4,000-year history of exchanges and learning between civilizations demonstrate that on the basis of solidarity, mutual trust, equality, inclusiveness, mutual learning and win-win cooperation, countries of different races, beliefs and cultural backgrounds are fully capable of sharing economic development, culture and peace. This can bring valuable inspiration for us.

Needless to mention that those were the days – thousands and centuries ago - when transport over land was accomplished using river craft and pack

animals, notably the sturdy Bactrian camel. Travel by sea depended on the prevailing winds of the Indian Ocean, and upon the monsoons (winds which blow from the southwest during the summer months and from the northeast in the autumn); socio-economically the world was less divided in religion, ideas and philosophies; socio-economic conditions were less complex.

Today we are living in a completely changed circumstances; we are living in complex world with much more diversified social and economic systems, highly diversified regional demographic change, qualitative increase in socio-economic and political aspirations of mankind; and, astronomical advancement of science and technology. Beyond the imagination of our ancestors, today, we can travel by air, overland has become simpler, faster, luxurious and safe; while travel by land and sea also has become secured, fast, luxurious and throughout the year. These developments coupled with the influence of globalization, have geometrically increased collaboration in industries, trade and commerce as well as education and learning between civilizations, and cultures of the East and the West, between the North and the South.

This is one side of the coin; the other side is not as positive – rather shaded by manmade conflicts. Mutual exchanges, which I have narrated earlier, has been dark-shaded by mutual incomprehension and miscomprehension by the so-called clash of civilization – as the religious and attitudinal differences between the East and the West, between the Christians and the Muslims – was philosophized by President George W. Bush – failing to realize that the principles of behavior which guide a good Jew, a Muslim or a Christian have more in common than one generally might think of. Incomprehension by such persons ignores that the issues, which our societies are facing today are very similar – reconciling old and new values, demographic and economic changes and finding jobs and opportunities for the young. There is no

denying that – neither, one cannot turn a blind eye to the deep-seated resentment, anger, frustration felt by the Muslims world over due to longstanding failure to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and insecurity felt by the Muslims in the West; nor, Muslim nations or any Muslim world over can ignore the mounting concern of world population about the violence and terroristic attacks by the Islamic fundamentalists.

Apart from such deep-rooted issues, I can cite two interesting examples of misunderstanding between civilizations – one is day-to-day behavioral and the other is cultural. Firstly, about behavior – in the Indian sub-continent we move our head up and down to mean “Yes”, and to right and left to mean “No”. The people of East Asia like China, Japan, Vietnam move their head just to mean the opposite to what we mean. This I realized, when I first worked with a Japanese consultant in 1970. The other example is – the good Christians were shocked and baffled by the strength of feeling and outrage of the Muslim world; and in some cases, violence, which was evoked by the Incident of publishing a cartoon on the Prophet Muhammad (peace be on Him). On the other hand, the Muslim world did not understand why the good Christians were shocked and baffled by the strength of feeling and outrage of the Muslim world.

Dialogue of cultures through mutual exchanges and learning among different civilizations and religions through various means, such as holding of conferences, exchange of academic scholarships and cultural visits of working people’s and civil society’s representatives, academics and parliamentarians, professionals, young students, to enable them to draw on each other’s strength and achieve common progress – is the only way to stop the so-called clash of civilizations. Improving understanding, promoting tolerance and deepening respect should be our watchwords to improve understanding between different cultures, religions, and ethnic groups, skin colors – within

a country, in a region and around the world. Clash of civilization is really not any threat, “the real threat is a clash of ignorance. Difficult though it may be, we must seize every opportunity for dialogue and foster mutual respect and understanding”. Such dialogue should be held at all levels of society – public institutions, religious and cultural leaders, civil society and the media.

These developments coupled with the influence of globalization has brought countries closer; and, has geometrically increased collaboration in industries, trade and commerce as well as education and learning between the East and the West, between the North and the South – between civilizations and cultures. At the same time it must be pointed that under the influence of globalization and neo-liberal ideology, education and learning is being turned into a commodity (commoditization) and framing education and learning in market terms (marketization); learning has increasingly been seen as a commodity or as an investment rather than as a way of exploring what might make for good life and well-being of society; national educational systems are threatened – forgetting that education ever had any purpose other than to promote only growth. Under the market ideologies and consumer culture, the learners are being transformed as ‘intense consumers’. So along with promotion of exchanges and learning between civilizations and cultures, we also need to emphasize that it is for human flourishing, well-being of mankind and participation in common life.

Finally, I would like to praise the Chinese government and it’s Honorable President for continuous initiative to accomplish their internationalist responsibility of promoting peace and stability, development and progress – in a win-win situation – by broadening cultural exchanges and mutual learning; and, “to turn China into a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious”.

Thank you all. 