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Remarks at the Reception Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs

By Yang Jiechi*

I am delighted to join so many colleagues and friends in celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA).

The founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949 marked a new epoch in China’s relations with the rest of the world. It started an extraordinary and historic journey for New China’s diplomacy. Defined by its close connection to the people, New China’s diplomacy includes people-to-people diplomacy as an important component. Over the last 70 years, China’s diplomacy has deeply engaged and benefited the public, demonstrating its unfailing commitment to serve the people. People-to-people diplomacy has thus proven irreplaceable in enhancing friendship between peoples, in building closer ties between countries, in promoting practical cooperation, and in facilitating exchanges.

* Yang Jiechi is Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs.
between civilizations. In short, it has contributed substantially to China’s overall diplomacy.

Set up in December 1949 on the initiative of Premier Zhou Enlai, the CPIFA is New China’s first institute dedicated to people-to-people diplomacy. From day one, the Institute has undertaken the noble mission of growing the People’s Republic’s ties with the rest of the world and promoting friendly exchanges between the Chinese people and people of all other countries. Since the launch of the reform and opening-up program and especially since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the CPIFA has stayed true to its founding mission and tapped into the unique role of people-to-people diplomacy. It has taken on new responsibilities, opened up new horizon, and taken new steps to better serve the reform, development and stability of the country and support the overall diplomatic agenda.

The last seven decades have witnessed historic changes in China’s relations with the world. China’s global standing and influence have kept rising, so has its contribution to the world. As General Secretary Xi Jinping aptly puts it, “China cannot develop in isolation from the world just as the world cannot prosper without contribution from China.”

Since the end of the Second World War, countries around the globe have worked in concert to steer the world from instability to general peace. Economic globalization has given a strong boost to economic and social development and to the progress of human civilization. The international community has established the basic norms of international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and developed an international
system centering around the United Nations. Peace and development have become the trend of our times, which translates into a favorable international environment for China’s reform and opening-up. While pursuing its own development, China vigorously upholds fairness and justice in the world, advocates greater democracy in international relations, stays engaged in the reform and development of the global governance system, and works with all other countries for a community with a shared future for mankind.

While safeguarding its own independence, China actively pursues cooperation and closer friendship with more countries around the world. After the founding of the People’s Republic, with the support of the international community, we established diplomatic ties with other countries and had our lawful seat restored at the UN. With the introduction of reform and opening-up, China opened its door to the capital, state-of-the-art technologies and managerial expertise from the outside. It unleashed the people’s enthusiasm about developing our own country, which would in turn benefit the whole world. What is worth mentioning in particular is how China stood with other countries to tide over the international financial crisis and rise to other global challenges. We have never forgotten the friendship that the Chinese people have received from people of other countries over the last 70 years. In this context, I would like to acknowledge the many foreign friends present at today’s reception. Let me take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to all of you for your longstanding commitment and support to China’s development.

A review of history can guide us to a better future. In a world of profound changes unseen in a century, emerging markets and
developing countries are rising with an unstoppable momentum, and the global balance of power is undergoing a major shift. Yet for quite some time now, unilateralism, protectionism, and bullyism have been growing and adding uncertainties and destabilizing factors to the international landscape. That said, justice will always prevail. There is a growing call in the world for multilateralism and greater international cooperation. Nothing could stop the trend toward a multi-polar world and economic globalization.

Next year, China will complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and attain its first centenary goal. In another 30 years, by the centenary of the People’s Republic, we will have turned our motherland into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful, and achieved the Chinese dream of great national renewal. China will stay as committed as ever to peaceful development, which will certainly bring more opportunities to the world.

Friendly exchanges between people are a fundamental force for world peace and development and a prerequisite for mutually beneficial cooperation. The future and destiny of the world are in the hands of the people of all countries. We the Chinese people will join hands with other people around the world to create a brighter future for all.
Remarks at Seminar on New China’s People-to-People Diplomacy

By Li Zhaoxing*

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), I am delighted to join you at the Seminar on New China’s People-to-People Diplomacy. Let me begin by congratulating the Institute on its 70th birthday. As you all know, the CPIFA, established in the same year as the People’s Republic, is New China’s first institute dedicated to people-to-people diplomacy where Premier Zhou Enlai and Vice Premier Chen Yi once served as Honorary President.

In its early years, the CPIFA’s main mission was to break the blockade of Western countries through people-to-people diplomacy and open up new prospects for New China’s foreign relations. Since reform and opening-up, as China’s engagement with the rest of the world in different areas flourishes, the Institute has conducted deeper and broader people-to-people exchanges. There are more frequent contacts with

* Li Zhaoxing is Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Honorary President of CPIFA.
prominent political figures, closer links with major and neighboring countries, and substantial exchanges with foreign think tanks and academics. The CPIFA has also played a unique role when state-to-state relations encounter difficulties. It has been a valuable complement to official diplomacy.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the CPIFA has, under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, further deepened and broadened external exchanges, actively shared China’s stories, promoted the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and contributed to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind in an effort to foster new dimensions for all-round people-to-people diplomacy.

Over the past 70 years, the CPIFA, with the country’s overall foreign relations in mind, has leveraged the unique advantage of people-to-people diplomacy in flexibility and wide coverage to make new friends and cement old ties. It has done a tremendous amount of valuable and commendable work to build and grow China’s diplomatic relations with other countries, enhance understanding and friendship with other peoples, foster a peaceful and amicable international environment, and garner popular support for state-to-state relations.

The CPIFA is one of the people-to-people diplomacy agencies that have received the most foreign dignitaries and prominent figures across social sectors. It is no overstatement that the Institute has friends all over the world. It has maintained longstanding contacts with Henry Kissinger, Tony Blair, Gerhard Schröder,
Jean-Pierre Raffarin, Ernesto Zedillo, Hamid Karzai, Yukio Hatoyama, and many other well-known political figures. It has established over 20 track II dialogue mechanisms with other countries including, among others, the US, Germany, France, Japan, the Republic of Korea and India. It has hosted or sponsored 10-plus big international seminars and conferences. And it has been actively engaged in public diplomacy, multilateral people-to-people diplomacy, and situation research.

As Honorary President of the CPIFA, I feel immensely proud of the Institute’s achievements. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to be directly involved in the Institute’s external work, and witnessed how its people-to-people diplomacy has expanded and grown. I met with visiting former political leaders, and delegations of young politicians, and participated in a host of bilateral and multilateral events, such as the China-France Young Leaders Program, the China-ROK Elite Forum, the International Conference on Belt and Road and Macao’s Development, and the Trilateral Commission. With its commitment to such people-to-people exchanges, the CPIFA has played its part to enhance communication, understanding, friendship and cooperation, and contributed its share to China’s overall foreign relations. As a “veteran” on the diplomatic front, I feel privileged that I can still play a role in people-to-people diplomacy and contribute my humble part to the deeper understanding and trust between China and the rest of the world.

What the CPIFA has achieved in the past 70 years would not be possible without the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee, the hard work of the staff of several generations at the Institute, and the vigorous support of people from various sectors.
The valuable experience of the Institute merits a careful review to provide reference for the future. At a time of major changes in the world and a new era in China, people-to-people diplomacy has entered a new historical stage. Facing new opportunities and challenges, the CPIFA must take its 70th anniversary as a new starting point and, under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, carry forward its fine traditions, forge ahead with a pioneering spirit, and break new grounds in people-to-people diplomacy with a view to making its contribution to advancing major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era and to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

I sincerely wish the CPIFA greater success and new glories. 🌟
I would like to extend, on behalf of the Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, warm congratulations on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA). Over the past 70 years, the CPIFA has played an effective supporting role in China’s overall diplomacy and implemented the CPC’s guidelines and policies on diplomacy with real earnest. Staying true to the purpose of “building friendship for the country”, the CPIFA has conducted fruitful people-to-people diplomacy. It has played an important role in New China’s endeavor to expand its diplomatic space, deepen mutual understanding and mutual trust with other countries, foster a favorable external environment and enhance its international image.

People-to-people diplomacy is an integral part of our country’s overall diplomacy. Over the years, the CPIFA has focused on the central tasks of Chinese

* Qin Gang is Vice Minister of Foreign Ministry.
diplomacy and built stronger bonds of friendship globally. It maintains long-term engagement with a large number of well-known statesmen worldwide, and keeps expanding and deepening exchanges with political leaders, parliaments, think tanks, media and youth across the world. Moreover, it has actively carried out Track II dialogues, public diplomacy activities and analyses of international situation. Known for the diverse models, multiple channels of communication and extensive coverage in its work, the CPIFA often has a unique role to play when state-to-state exchanges run into difficulties, serving as a useful supplement to the official diplomatic agenda.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of New China. The Chinese nation, through seven decades of hard work, has realized a remarkable transformation from standing up, to growing rich, and to becoming strong. We working on the diplomatic front are the witnesses to and participants of this historic journey of national development and renewal. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the Party’s Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has put forth, in light of the new historical stage in China’s development, the Two Centenary Goals and the Chinese Dream of great national renewal. With a keen insight into the overarching development trend in China and the world at large, General Secretary Xi Jinping has made the key assessment that the world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. He called for a community with a shared future for mankind, advocated Belt and Road cooperation, and spearheaded changes to the global governance system. Such vision has profound and far-reaching significance for China’s peaceful development and for prosperity and progress in the world. Guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era,
particularly Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, we have tackled one challenge after another and made continued progress in the diplomatic field. We have stood firm in defense of our national sovereignty, security and development interests, proactively extended all-round diplomacy to more areas, contributed China’s perspectives and input, strengthened exchanges and mutual learning with other countries, and opened up new vistas for major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. As a result, China has seen an unprecedented lift of its international standing, with a growing profile, appeal and influence in the world. We are closer than ever before to the center of the global stage and to the goal of great national renewal.

Against the backdrop of global changes unseen in a century, China’s relations with the world are also undergoing historic transformations. On the one hand, the advancement of multipolarity and economic globalization, along with the unfolding industrial and technological revolutions, has brought new opportunities to the development of all countries. On the other hand, however, rising unilateralism, protectionism and populism are creating more uncertainties and destabilizing factors. On China’s part, our development has reached a period when the time frames of the Two Centenary Goals converge, which is of great significance for the historic journey of the great renewal of the Chinese nation. Against such an international and domestic backdrop, our work to advance major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era faces both historic opportunities and severe risks and challenges at the same time. All of us working on the diplomatic front must study and implement with real earnest Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, particularly Xi Jinping Thought
on Diplomacy, and have a full grasp of the historical context of
China’s development and the defining trend of world development.
We need to keep in mind China’s international and domestic
imperatives and drive forward the major-country diplomacy with
Chinese characteristics. In so doing, we will be able to preserve and
extend the period of strategic opportunity for China’s development
and create a more favorable international environment for our
strive for the Two Centenary Goals and the Chinese Dream of great
national renewal.

As socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a
new era, new chapters have been opened in people-to-people
diplomacy. As New China’s first institute dedicated to people-to-
people diplomacy, the CPIFA needs to make its 70th anniversary
a new starting point to implement with real earnest Xi Jinping
Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era,
particularly Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy. The CPIFA must
be keenly aware of the need to uphold political integrity, keep in
mind the bigger picture, follow the leadership core, and meet Party
requirements. It must have full confidence in the path, theory,
system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics.
It must resolutely uphold General Secretary Xi Jinping’s core
position on the CPC Central Committee and in the Party, and
resolutely uphold the authority and centralized, unified leadership
of the CPC Central Committee. It must keep in mind our goal and
mission at this period of historic convergence, improve strategic
planning, rise to its responsibilities by tapping into the people-to-
people diplomacy and contribute to major-country diplomacy with
Chinese characteristics in a new era.

First, studying and implementing Xi Jinping Thought on
Diplomacy in a deep-going way to keep our diplomatic work to the right direction. Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy has spelled out the historic mission, fundamental goals and essential principles for China’s diplomatic work in the new era. It is a crystallization of our diplomatic theory and practice over the last seven decades. As an important component of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, it sets the fundamental course of action for China’s diplomatic work in the new era. We need to study and gain a deeper understanding of its system, essence and core, and equip ourselves with this Thought to guide our practice.

Second, focusing on the overall diplomacy of the Party and the country to better serve our national development and renewal. In 2020, China will complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and thus meet the first Centenary Goal. That same year will also see us embarking on a new journey of making all-round efforts to build a modern socialist country. The year 2021 will mark the centenary of the CPC. In conducting people-to-people diplomacy, which is an important component of China’s diplomatic work, we need to fully understand the features of this period of historic convergence, and have an accurate assessment of the international situation and the global trend so that we will be able to contribute to the overall diplomacy and deliver smooth progress toward the goals of national development and renewal.

Third, cementing public support for a new type of international relations to foster a favorable external environment. Friendship, which derives from close ties between peoples, holds the key to sound state-to-state relations. The CPIFA must stay true to its mission of forging friendship for the country, and continue
to build stronger bonds of friendship to facilitate deeper mutual understanding, mutual trust, and practical cooperation between China and the rest of the world. In serving the overall diplomacy, the CPIFA needs to actively contribute to the growth of China’s relations with the US, Russia, the EU and other major powers in a comprehensive and balanced way; it needs to help deepen good neighborliness, amity and cooperation between China and its neighbors; and it needs to contribute to the further growth of China’s friendship with other developing countries to cement the foundation of our external work. The CPIFA also has an important role to play in the efforts to better communicate China’s stories to the international community, enhance China’s international image, develop more platforms to advance Belt and Road cooperation and stay engaged in global governance to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

Fourth, being mindful of worst-case scenario and enhancing the ability to fight and win. China is now in a strategic period of important opportunities and will remain so for quite a long time to come. On the other hand, however, our external environment is getting increasingly complex and severe. Under such circumstances, we need to stay cool-headed, keep a watchful eye on potential dangers and be mindful of worse-case scenario to avert and defuse major risks and challenges. In conducting people-to-people diplomacy, we need to strengthen the top-level design, strategic planning, and policy-making, as well as to enhance our ability to navigate the complex international situation and to fight and win. We need to think more strategically and act more proactively and coherently in our work.

Fifth, enhancing organizational guarantee and developing
a strong contingent for people-to-people diplomacy. We need to uphold the CPC’s centralized, unified leadership over external work. Acting on General Secretary Xi Jinping’s requirements for diplomatic personnel in the new era, we must hold the personnel working in the field of people-to-people diplomacy to such standards as being politically reliable, professionally able, well disciplined and impeccable in their conduct. On political issues, they must demonstrate the traits of loyalty, integrity and a sense of responsibility. They must stay true to their ideal and conviction, and hone their professional skills and overall qualities. Only in this way can they meet the requirements of people-to-people diplomacy in the new era.

In our historic journey toward great national renewal, those working at the people-to-people diplomatic front undertake a glorious mission and heavy tasks at the same time. That makes it all the more important for us to rally closely around the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core. Guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, particularly Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, let us stay true to our mission, rise to our mandate, keep pace with the times and break new ground. Let us work together to make new headway in the major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics and to make greater contribution to the realization of the Two Centenary Goals and the Chinese Dream of great national renewal.
People-to-People Diplomacy: A Propeller of Major-Country Diplomacy with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era

By Wang Chao*

People-to-people diplomacy is an initiative put forward by the Communist Party of China (CPC) under the diplomatic work of the People’s Republic of China (PRC). It aims at promoting friendship between peoples and advancing relations between countries, with distinct Chinese features developed in its long course of practice. The Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), the first institute of New China dedicated to people-to-people diplomacy, was established under the proposal of the then Premier and Foreign Minister Zhou Enlai, who also served as the institute’s honorary president. Founded on 15 December 1949, the same year as the People’s Republic, the CPIFA has worked on behalf of the Chinese people in creating a new chapter in China’s interaction with the rest of the world, and contributed to the remarkable progress in people-to-people diplomacy of New China over the past seven decades.

* Wang Chao is President of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA).
I. As an important part of New China’s diplomacy, people-to-people diplomacy has played an important role in expanding China’s diplomatic space, promoting mutual understanding between China and the rest of the world and enhancing China’s international profile over the past 70 years.

In the early years of New China, the pressing task of diplomacy was to win understanding and support of more countries and their peoples. Given the situation, Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai and other founding fathers of the People’s Republic decided that on the diplomatic front, we need to focus on the people, work with the people and place hopes on them. The CPIFA worked creatively with other similar organizations through people-to-people diplomacy to promote China’s official relations with other countries. These efforts greatly expanded New China’s diplomatic space by breaking diplomatic blockade, enhancing people-to-people interactions and mutual trust between China and other countries and gaining international support.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the CPIFA actively supported and openly endorsed the Third World Countries’ struggle for independence, contributing to establishing and developing diplomatic ties between China and these countries. In the 1960s and 1970s, against the evolving international landscape, the CPIFA worked on people-to-people exchanges with the Western world, serving as bridges for the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and major Western countries.

From 1952 to 1968, the CPIFA played an important role in the normalization of China-Japan relations by receiving over 100
Japanese delegations of renowned figures from all walks of life. It also helped pave the way for the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and France in 1964 by inviting former French Prime Minister Edgar Faure to China twice between 1957 and 1963 to discuss the matter with Chinese leaders. After President Richard Nixon’s visit to China, the CPIFA, as one of the main channels for China-US high-level people-to-people exchanges, received the first visiting Speaker of the US House of Representatives, majority leader of the Senate, governor and Chief Justice, helping lay the foundation for the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and the US. As the then Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Chen Yi rightly pointed out, China’s people-to-people diplomacy was conducted via both governmental and non-governmental channels. The flexible combination of the two constituted people-to-people diplomacy, which became the most distinguished feature of China’s diplomatic work.

After the introduction of reform and opening up, China’s external exchanges grew rapidly in all fields, ushering in a new historical period for people-to-people diplomacy. As an important part of the overall diplomatic work, people-to-people diplomacy helped lay down the fundamental framework for the endeavor to consolidate popular support for state-to-state relations and create a peaceful and stable international environment for domestic development. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, in particular, under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, the major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics has made headway on all fronts with more distinct Chinese features, making new and important contribution to China’s development and world peace. Guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics
for a New Era and Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, the CPIFA stays committed to making friends for the country. It has further deepened exchanges with world-renowned statesmen, parliaments, think tanks and media organizations, and actively conducted Track II dialogues and public diplomacy, bringing into full play the unique role of people-to-people diplomacy in supplementing overall diplomacy, enhancing mutual understanding and promoting practical cooperation.

**Expanding the network of our friends by making as many friends as possible.** The CPIFA has received more statesmen and eminent figures from across the world than any other institutes of similar nature, and maintained long-standing friendship with many of them. As China’s door opens wider to the outside world, the CPIFA, while staying in close contact with old friends, has made new friends with political figures, members of parliament, scholars and eminent people from the US, Europe, major emerging countries and neighboring and developing ones. We also pay much attention to the younger generation, and have, in recent years, engaged with global youth elites. We have co-hosted regular young leaders fora with the US, Germany, France and Austria, invited delegations of young politicians from Poland and the Republic of Korea to China, and sent Chinese youth delegations to Africa. Youth exchanges, with diverse topics and colorful programs, have deepened mutual understanding and friendship between the two sides and injected new dynamism to people-to-people diplomacy.

**Enhancing mutual trust and cooperation through dialogue and exchanges.** Track II mechanism has been an important means for the institute to conduct dialogue and exchange, deepen mutual understanding, mutual trust and help promote bilateral relationship
with other countries. Under the framework of Track II, the CPIFA had in-depth dialogue with members of American Democratic and Republican Parties on how to ensure sustainable, sound and steady growth of China-US relations. We conducted candid exchanges with Japanese people in and out of the government on how to improve and grow China-Japan relations. Exchanges were also carried out with our neighboring countries such as the ROK, Singapore and Malaysia, as well as central and eastern European and Latin American countries. In-depth discussions on furthering China-Europe mutual trust and practical cooperation were conducted with Germany, France and other European countries.

**Telling the China story by engaging in public diplomacy.** China has attracted increasing attention of the international community with its growing comprehensive strength and global influence. The CPIFA has presented the China story and China’s path via both bilateral and multilateral platforms, contributing to the endeavor of building a community with a shared future for mankind. The institute and the Beijing municipal government co-hosted the first and second conferences of the CICA Non-Governmental Forum in 2015 and 2017 respectively, advocating the new security vision and CICA approach. The three Understanding China International Conferences, which the institute co-hosted with China Institute for Innovation and Development Strategy in 2013, 2015 and 2018, aimed at facilitating a deeper international understanding of China’s path. The World Peace Forum, co-hosted with Tsinghua University, provided an important platform for international discussion on global security issues. We have also actively supported and taken part in major international fora such as the World Internet Conference, the Eco Forum Global Annual Conference in Guiyang, the Kubuqi International Desert
Forum and the Taihu World Cultural Forum. We worked with the Azerbaijani Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC) in co-hosting a high-level meeting themed on “Development of China, Opportunities for the World”. These efforts helped facilitate China’s external exchanges and enhance China’s voice worldwide. Moreover, in recent years, the CPIFA has invited more media delegations from North America, Oceania, Europe, Latin America and Africa to China to learn first hand about China’s development. Through their reports, more people around the world will be able to know what China is really like.

Playing a unique role in China’s overall diplomacy. As a useful supplement to official diplomacy, people-to-people diplomacy has a unique role to play when state-to-state relations encounter problems. In the late 1980s when China’s relations with the Western world were at a low ebb, the CPIFA organized a mayors’ delegation headed by Zhu Rongji, the then mayor of Shanghai, to a dozen of large- and medium-sized cities in the US in July 1990, which served as a boost to the improvement of China-US relations. At the end of 2008, when China-France relations faced some setbacks, the CPIFA sent a delegation to France during the Spring Festival in 2009 for the events marking the 45th anniversary of the diplomatic ties, and invited former Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin to visit China, facilitating the efforts to navigate the difficulties in bilateral ties. The latest case has been the complex situation in China-US relations. The CPIFA has stepped up efforts to engage with people of all sectors in the US to have in-depth discussions on how to work for the stable growth of this relationship.

Over the past 70 years, the CPIFA has stayed true to its
founding purposes and worked relentlessly. Over the past seven decades, the CPIFA has received more than 30,000 visitors of over 4,000 foreign political, parliamentary, think tank and media delegations. It has maintained long-standing contact with renowned statesmen such as Helmut Schmidt, Edward Heath, Henry Kissinger, Jacques Chirac, Helmut Kohl, Gerhard Schröder, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, Jean-Pierre Raffarin, Kevin Rudd, Shaukat Aziz, Yukio Hatoyama, Goh Chok Tong, Hamid Karzai, Ernesto Zedillo and Olusegun Obasanjo. Over 20 dialogue mechanisms have been regularly conducted with institutes in the US, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the ROK, India, Singapore and Australia. People-to-people diplomacy has increasingly served as an important channel and platform that facilitates steady growth of state-to-state relations, friendship between peoples, practical cooperation among countries and dialogue between civilizations. Going forward, it will shoulder new tasks and make new achievements, contributing to China’s reform, development, stability and overall diplomacy.

II. Reflecting on the past helps one better see the future. Looking back, the CPIFA has achieved hard-won results in people-to-people diplomacy over the past 70 years. Its valuable experience merits a thorough review.

First, people-to-people diplomacy complements and facilitates governmental diplomacy. It played an important and unique role in the early years of New China, not only as a supplement to the latter but as a trailblazer. Serving the interests of the people, it explored ways of external exchanges, together with the Party and the government, for New China’s diplomacy. Since China’s
reform and opening up, people-to-people diplomacy has grown in both breadth and depth in political, economic, cultural and other areas to meet the needs of national development, providing firm support for China’s overall diplomacy. As an initiative with Chinese characteristics, it takes diverse forms, opens up multiple channels, and covers a wide range of areas. With these advantages, it will play an even greater role in supplementing and promoting diplomacy at the official level.

Second, people-to-people diplomacy is based on friendship between peoples. Over the past seven decades, people-to-people diplomacy, expanding to more areas and taking on new forms, has always remained true to its mission. As President Xi Jinping says: “Friendship, which derives from close ties between peoples, holds the key to sound state-to-state relations”. The very nature of people-to-people diplomacy is, in the final analysis, about forging friendship between peoples. Making as many as friends as possible, it enhances affinity, mutual trust, friendship and cooperation between peoples, cements popular support for state-to-state relations and helps the world better understand China.

Third, people-to-people diplomacy requires resilience and long-term dedication. As President Xi points out, friendship between peoples underpins world peace and development. People-to-people diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, which focuses on the people, needs patient and resilient efforts. The power of friendship between peoples transcends national borders, time, space and civilizations. In the face of the fluid international situation, the more difficulties countries encounter in their relations, the more important people-to-people diplomacy is as an anchor and relief valve to improve relations between governments, promote common
prosperity and safeguard world peace. Capable of engaging the mainstream society and general public of foreign countries more directly and broadly, it can be more effective in presenting China’s political and economic standing and cultural appeal, thus fostering a more favorable public opinion of China across the world.

Fourth, people-to-people diplomacy must keep pace with the times and break new grounds. Over the years, however different the circumstances have been, people-to-people diplomacy, while remaining true to its mission of forging friendship, has explored new ways and expanded to new areas in response to new developments. It has gained international support for China’s diplomacy, forged a favorable global environment for exchanges between China and other countries, and contributed greatly to presenting China’s views and promoting a community with a shared future for mankind. As China rolls out its major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era and in light of new conditions, tasks and requirements, people-to-people diplomacy must always keep pace with the times to maintain its vigor and vitality.

III. With the world undergoing changes unseen in a century, people-to-people diplomacy has embarked on a new journey in pursuit of a community with a share future for mankind. Adapting to new changes with new initiatives, people-to-people diplomacy is opening a new chapter of development in the new era.

First, cementing public support as part of the overall diplomacy to forge a new type of international relations. People-to-people diplomacy is centered around people. As more parties
get to play their role in diplomacy, people-to-people diplomacy will have the strong support of the 1.4 billion Chinese people. To reach out to foreign statesmen, think tanks, scholars, media, youth, and entrepreneurs, people-to-people diplomacy needs to tap into its advantages in terms of flexibility, diverse forms, multiple channels and wide coverage to enhance exchanges and communication for mutual understanding, friendship and mutual trust. It needs to trickle down to things of fundamental and long-term importance, play its role as lubricant for state-to-state relations, and cultivate friendship among peoples.

Second, staying committed to its mission and responsibilities to safeguard national interests. Safeguarding sovereignty, security and development interests of the country is the ultimate goal in developing relations with the rest of the world. China is firmly committed to the path of peaceful development, and at the same time, is resolute in safeguarding national and people’s interests. People-to-people diplomacy must stand its ground and leverage its unique advantages and resources to explore new ways and means of safeguarding national interests, never flinch from any moves that undermine national interests, and create favorable external conditions for China’s development.

Third, building China’s image by sharing its stories globally in innovative ways. China is a country with profound traditions and a rich culture. Having gone through arduous revolutions and nation-building in modern times, it is now striving for progress through reform and opening up. This is a journey the global community needs to know in order to understand China’s rise from misery to splendor and the achievements it has scored one after another. More importantly, it is an inexhaustible source
of great value for people-to-people diplomacy. In the new era, China’s people-to-people diplomacy needs to conduct external exchanges more actively, tell stories about China in a language understandable to foreign friends, communicate China’s messages and let the world know the full picture of a real China, including its characters, style and confidence as a responsible major country.

Fourth, building platforms for cooperation with the rest of the world. As China has growing convergence of interests with the rest of the world and gets increasingly integrated into the international system, its future is more closely connected with that of the world. President Xi has solemnly declared on multiple occasions that China’s door will only open wider. China pursues a win-win strategy of opening up, advocates multilateral cooperation and opposes trade protectionism. Its Belt and Road Initiative not only meets its needs of opening up wider and deeper but also echoes the aspirations of the majority of countries. People-to-people diplomacy, focusing on the overarching goal of national development, should build platforms and bridges for exchanges to better serve reform, opening up and high-quality development of the country and promote win-win cooperation between China and other countries.

Fifth, playing a part in global governance for building a community with a shared future for mankind. China is the world’s second largest economy and the largest developing country. As such, China’s people-to-people diplomacy needs to take an active part in multilateral arenas to jointly explore ways to tackle global challenges and elaborate on China’s visions and input. It should help forge greater synergy between China’s peace and stability and those of the world, between China’s development and prosperity
and the common interests of all countries, and between the Chinese
Dream and the common aspirations of all peoples for a better life.
It should play its role in presenting China’s views, perspectives and
resolve to live up to its responsibilities in building a community
with a shared future for mankind.

People-to-people diplomacy is a proven practice to implement
major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics and an
integral part of China’s overall diplomacy. The whole world can
be the stage for people-to-people diplomacy. President Xi stresses
that the CPC strives for both the well-being of the Chinese people
and human progress, and that making new and greater contribution
for mankind is the Party’s abiding mission. Over the past seven
decades, the CPIFA has stayed committed to its mission of making
friends for China and building friendships across the world. Its
relentless effort to carry out people-to-people diplomacy has
registered fruitful results. Going forward, under the guidance of Xi
Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a
New Era and Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, China’s people-
to-people diplomacy will march toward even greater success with
strong vitality, and contribute more to achieving the two centenary
goals and the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.
China’s Diplomacy in the Past 70 Years: Achievements and Experience

By Liu Jinsong*

The year 2019 marked the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Seventy years ago, the Chinese people, through arduous struggles, ended once and for all, China’s century-long history of humiliation following the Opium War and began to stand tall in the East as a completely new nation. Over the past seven decades, China’s diplomacy, by holding high the banner of independence, peace and cooperation, has helped advance China’s national renewal from having stood up, growing rich to becoming stronger and made historic contribution to world peace and development.

I. Major Diplomatic Achievements of New China in the Past 70 Years

First achievement: firmly safeguarding China’s sovereignty and security interests. In the early years of the PRC, in order to break foreign isolation

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and blockade, the Chinese government adopted three guiding principles for its diplomacy, namely, to “set up a new kitchen”, “clean the house before entertaining the guests” and “lean to one side”, presenting to the world a whole new China. Since then, China’s diplomacy has always followed the independent foreign policy of peace and firmly safeguarded national independence and sovereignty, enabling the New China to gain a solid foothold and break new ground in a complex and fast-changing world.

To realize China’s complete reunification is a historic mission and responsibility of China’s diplomacy. The hard work on the diplomatic front to implement the vision of “one country, two systems” brought forth the smooth return of Hong Kong and Macao. Through its diplomacy, China has resolutely rejected external interference in China’s domestic affairs and infringement upon China’s sovereignty and security. China has said no to separatist activities aimed at “Taiwan independence” and forestalled external interference in Hong Kong and Macao affairs. It has also conducted effective diplomacy on issues concerning Tibet and Xinjiang. It has strengthened international cooperation on combating terrorism, extremism and separatism and stood firmly against politicizing human rights issues. These are all diplomatic efforts to fully defend China’s territorial sovereignty, security and national dignity.

China’s diplomacy is committed to addressing disputes concerning territory and maritime rights and interests with neighboring countries through negotiation and consultation. Through negotiation, China has completed the survey and demarcation of land boundary with 12 out of its 14 land neighbors, which accounts for 90% of its total land boundary and
effectively safeguarded China’s territorial sovereignty. When I was Ambassador to Afghanistan, my Afghan friends told me that though Afghanistan is smaller in size, China treated Afghanistan as its equal during the boundary negotiations and handled boundary affairs in a fair and friendly way. The Afghan people could feel the brotherly sentiments from China and its moral strength as a major country. China signed and effectively implemented the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) with countries concerned and, together with these countries, has launched and advanced consultations on a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC). These are important steps to uphold maritime rights and interests and preserve regional maritime stability.

**Second achievement: cementing and developing relations with countries around the world.** In the past seven decades, the number of countries having diplomatic relations with China has expanded from 18 in the first several years of the PRC to 180. China has formed 111 partnerships in various forms and made friends all over the world, symbolizing its success in finding a new approach toward relations between countries that favors dialogue over confrontation and partnership over alliance.

The Soviet Union recognized and established diplomatic relations with the PRC just one day after its founding. After the Soviet Union’s dissolution, this relationship smoothly transitioned into the China-Russia relationship. Having withstood the test of international vicissitudes, the China-Russia relationship has become a fine example of amicable coexistence and win-win cooperation between two large countries and neighbors. As the two countries marked the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties, President
Xi Jinping made a state visit to Russia and announced the decision to develop a China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era, elevating bilateral relations onto a new journey.

The China-US relationship is one of the most consequential bilateral relationships in the world. In the 1970s, Chairman Mao Zedong invited the American ping-pong team to China, paving the way for the development of official ties between the two countries through people-to-people exchanges. When meeting with the US delegation, Premier Zhou Enlai made the remark that “your visit to China has opened the door to friendly exchanges between our two peoples.” The ping-pong diplomacy left behind a famous historic episode of how “a small ball moved the big ball”. Since China and the US established diplomatic relations, the relationship has gone through many ups and downs, yet it has continued to move forward. To address the growing complexities in the relationship as we see right now, it is crucial for the two sides to respect each other and treat each other as equals and seek to resolve the issues through dialogue and consultation, advance the China-US relations based on coordination, cooperation and stability, and ensure the overall stability of the relationship.

China’s relations with Europe played a unique role in advancing China’s diplomacy in the early years of the PRC and in China’s modernization. In 1964, France became the first major Western country to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level with the PRC. As European integration moved forward, China-Europe relations have deepened and expanded toward partnerships for peace, growth, reform and civilization. The two sides have expanded common understanding on upholding
multilateralism and improving global governance and developed all-dimensional, multi-tiered and wide-ranging exchanges and cooperation.

In the past seven decades, China has attached great importance to its neighborhood diplomacy. Committed to the principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, China has pursued friendship and partnership with its neighbors to foster an amicable, secure and prosperous neighborhood. The result is greater political mutual trust and productive cooperation between China and its neighboring countries, more solid progress in regional integration and continued advancement in the building of a community with common interests and a shared future.

In the past seven decades, China has all along viewed greater solidarity and cooperation with other developing countries as a foundation of its foreign policy and supported their efforts to strive for and defend national independence and equal participation in international affairs. Following the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith and that of pursuing the greater good and shared interests among countries, China has been working to build an even stronger community with a shared future between China and Africa, develop the future-oriented strategic partnership of comprehensive cooperation and common development with Arab states, deepen the comprehensive cooperative partnership of equality, mutual benefit and common development with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and forge a new platform for South-South cooperation among BRICS countries. These efforts have extended China’s cooperation frameworks to cover all developing countries.
Third achievement: taking an active part in shaping global governance. China is a defender of the international order. China was the first country to put its signature on the United Nations (UN) Charter. In the 1950s, Premier Zhou Enlai led the Chinese delegations to the Geneva Conference and the Bandung Conference and played a constructive role at both events, bringing China onto the world stage. A senior Chinese diplomat involved in those events recalled that during the Geneva Conference, all decisions were made by Premier Zhou himself. He engaged foreign heads of delegation extensively and spoke to them at great length. And every day he worked until three or four o’clock in the morning. He gained recognition and respect for New China’s diplomacy and established China’s image as a responsible country committed to independence, equity and justice. After restoring its lawful seat in the UN in 1971, China has fully participated in UN activities in various fields, joined almost all the intergovernmental international organizations and acceded to over 500 international conventions. In the new era, China remains a staunch defender of multilateralism and continues to support the UN in playing a positive role in international affairs. It has become the second largest contributor to the UN regular budget and peacekeeping assessment and the largest peacekeeper contributor among permanent members of the Security Council.

China is a contributor to world peace. The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence advocated by China, India and Myanmar in the 1950s is a basic norm governing international relations and a basic principle in international law. When meeting with UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in 1982, Comrade Deng Xiaoping emphasized that “China’s commitment to world peace was not an empty slogan” and that “opposing hegemony
and upholding world peace was China’s true policy, a guideline for conducting Chinese diplomacy.” Over the last 70 years, China has never provoked a single war or conflict, or seized a single inch of land from other countries. Since reform and opening-up began in 1978, China has voluntarily cut its armed forces by over four million. China advocates common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. China has fully participated in the work on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation and contributed its wisdom and resources to resolving international and regional hotspot issues such as the Korean Peninsula, the Iranian nuclear issue, Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan and the issue of Myanmar’s Rakhine State. China has been sending naval fleets to the Gulf of Aden and waters off the Somalia coast for escort missions for more than 10 consecutive years. China has extended a timely helping hand to countries and people affected by tsunamis, earthquakes, other natural disasters and the Ebola epidemic. All these endeavors have demonstrated the Chinese nation’s compassion and keen sense of responsibility for the world.

Today, the world faces a common challenge — a deficit in peace, development and governance. There is a growing call from people around the world for better global governance. China has hosted and attended a series of multilateral events such as the G20 Summits, the World Economic Forum and the APEC Economic Leaders’ Meetings, where China offered many initiatives and propositions and translated them into international consensus and global actions, contributing its part to the reform and development of the global governance system. We are also part of multilateral governance processes and cooperation on global climate change, counterterrorism, nuclear security and cybersecurity. We have actively pushed for reform of international financial institutions.
China launched initiatives to set up the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), BRICS, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and other international organizations and cooperation mechanisms that focus on developing countries. More Chinese nationals have been elected to head international organizations. China is becoming the most active contributor to better global governance.

In response to changes rarely seen in a century and existing challenges in governance and development, President Xi Jinping put forth the important vision of a community with a shared future for mankind, advocated the building of an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity. He has also explicitly called for the building of “an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future”, “a China-ASEAN community with a shared future”, “a China-Africa community with a shared future” and “a China-LAC community with a shared future”. His vision of a community with a shared future for mankind illustrates the interdependence among all countries and peoples and the interconnectedness of their future. It fully reflects the long-shared aspiration of people across the world. This vision has been included in documents of the UN and other international and regional organizations. China has added a new dimension to multilateralism which reflects the trend of our times. That is, instead of letting one country or a small group of countries have all the say, international affairs should be addressed by all countries through consultation. This idea has been widely applauded by the international community.

Fourth achievement: building an open system of win-win cooperation. China is a contributor to global development. In
70 years, it has become the world’s second largest economy, contributing over 30% to world economic growth. It is the largest trading partner of more than 130 countries. Since reform and opening-up, China has seen itself deeply integrating into the world with unprecedented pace and scale. It is a member of the World Bank, the IMF, the WTO, and almost all other important international and regional economic organizations. It has signed 17 Free Trade Agreements with 25 countries and regions. Fifteen countries of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) have concluded text-based negotiations. A network of high-standard free trade areas is in the making. Covering neighboring countries and extending to Belt and Road partners, it is truly a network with global vision.

China is actively involved in and firmly supports economic globalization. “Pursuing protectionism is like locking oneself in a dark room. While wind and rain may be kept outside, that dark room will also block light and air.” China’s firm commitment to economic globalization and to an open world economy sets the right direction for globalization, which now stands at a crossroads. We have taken real actions to uphold the rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its center, and the core values and basic principles of the WTO. We have promoted economic globalization, trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and the building of an open world economy.

China has made huge contribution to the world’s poverty reduction and development. Since reform and opening-up, China has lifted nearly 800 million people out of poverty, contributing over 70% to poverty reduction worldwide. By 2020, China will win the critical battle against poverty, and eliminate extreme poverty
for the first time in its 5,000-year history. China has provided over 400 billion yuan of assistance and sent over 600,000 aid workers to nearly 170 countries and international organizations. Its active efforts in implementing the UN’s Millennium Development Goals and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have been widely recognized.

Since China proposed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013, a large number of connectivity projects have been launched, and a basic framework of international cooperation is in place. The vision of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits has been accepted, and financial support from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Silk Road Fund and other sources has been strengthened. By the end of October 2019, China has signed 197 agreements on Belt and Road cooperation with 137 countries and 30 international organizations. Nearly 20,000 freight trains have traveled between China and European countries. Two meetings of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation were successfully held. As the biggest platform of international cooperation and the most popular international public good, the BRI has promoted economic growth and improved people’s lives in relevant countries and regions. It has even changed the destiny of many ordinary people. The Chinese Red Cross Foundation has assisted over 100 Afghan children with congenital heart diseases. With a 100% success rate of surgeries in Urumqi, Xinjiang, over 100 families have regained hope for life. “Our Chinese friends take care of our children just like their own, and we shall never forget their help”, the locals said with tears in their eyes.

**Fifth achievement: actively serving domestic development.**
For 70 years, serving the economic and social development of
the country has always been an important mission of China’s diplomacy. We have supported companies and local governments to “go global”, built platforms including multilateral events, the Belt and Road cooperation, and the MFA presenting Chinese provinces events, and contributed to high-quality development of the country and the opening-up of its different regions. Vigorous efforts were made in fighting corruption, repatriation of fugitives, and return of their criminal proceeds, and 60 on the list of 100 most wanted fugitives have been brought back to China.

China’s diplomacy is people-centered, and is committed to serving the people and to ensuring safety and the legitimate rights and interests of overseas Chinese citizens and institutions. We have conducted more than 10 emergency evacuations of Chinese nationals from foreign countries including Yemen, and processed over 500,000 consular protection cases involving nearly one million Chinese citizens. In September 2018, when a powerful typhoon hit Japan, China’s Consulate General in Osaka helped evacuating over 1,000 stranded Chinese tourists who were from the mainland, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. It demonstrates how a major country lives up to its responsibilities, always there to help its nationals. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has established the mechanism of security and travel alerts, and launched the consular hotline 12308, the consular services website, and the “China Consular Affairs” account on WeChat and Weibo. China has signed mutual visa exemption agreements on different types of passports with 146 countries, and 70 countries and regions now grant visa-free or visa on arrival entry to Chinese citizens carrying ordinary passports.

**Sixth achievement: promoting innovation in the system of**
diplomatic theories. Over the past 70 years, generations of Chinese leaders, diplomats, experts and scholars have worked tirelessly for the historic mission of applying diplomatic studies to the Chinese context, and have been innovating on China’s diplomatic theories. From the three major diplomatic policies to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, from the “three worlds” theory, to standing for multi-polarity, democracy in international relations, and building a harmonious world, New China has responded both to the real needs and characteristics of the times through its diplomacy, explored and developed a system of diplomatic theories with distinctive Chinese features, and made important contribution to the innovation and development of theories on international relations.

In June 2018, the Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs established the guiding position of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy. With the “ten major endeavors” as its key component, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy has set out explicitly the historic mission, overarching goal, and key policies and principles of China’s diplomacy in the new era, and profoundly revealed the essence, rules and goals of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era. Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy is an important part of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. It presents well the vision on governance of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core as applied to diplomacy, and it is a fundamental guidance for China’s diplomacy in the new era.

In October 2019, the fourth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee set out the plans and goals on upholding and improving the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics,
and modernizing China’s system and capacity for governance. Important statements were made on China’s diplomacy, including strengthening the development of theories of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, improving the systems and mechanisms relating to foreign affairs, and modernizing China’s system and capacity for governance as applied to diplomacy. A clear direction has been set out for diplomacy to create a peaceful international environment and favorable external conditions for the development of the Party and the country.

II. Seventy Years of Valuable Experience on Diplomacy Since the Founding of the People’s Republic

China has developed a fine tradition and gained valuable experience in diplomacy over its 70-year glorious journey. This is a precious legacy for the development of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

We are committed to an independent foreign policy of peace. Independence is the most salient feature of China’s diplomacy. Throughout history, not a single country or ethnic group has ever achieved prosperity or revitalization by relying on external forces or following others’ footsteps. China always decides on its positions and policies according to the merits of matters, pursues political settlement of disputes through dialogue, and develops itself by safeguarding world peace while contributing to world peace with its own development. China encourages all countries to follow the path of peaceful development, and always stands as a force for peace in the world.

We are committed to maintaining international fairness and
justice. Fairness and justice is the pursuit of all peoples, and the inherent responsibility of China’s diplomacy. China advocates and practices the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and opposes hegemonism and power politics in all forms. China has always spoken up for justice on the political front, pursued win-win outcome and common development on economic matters, and acted in good faith and valued friendship in international affairs. China will always stand on the right side of history, of international fairness and justice, and of all other developing countries.

We are committed to the win-win strategy of opening up. Win-win outcome is essential to China’s peaceful development and to the pursuit of China’s diplomacy. China rejects zero-sum games, and seeks no dominance. Since reform and opening-up, China has made opening-up a fundamental state policy, advocated a win-win strategy of opening-up, and pursued development with door wide open. China has taken full advantage of the favorable conditions brought by economic globalization and regional cooperation, contributed to and benefited from common development of the world with its own development, and promoted win-win cooperation and the building of an open system.

We are committed to safeguarding the nation’s core and major interests. Safeguarding national interests is the ultimate goal of China’s foreign policy. China’s diplomacy is aimed at the overall and long-term interests of the Chinese nation. We greatly value the independence that the Chinese people have won through protracted struggles, and uphold the social system and development path independently chosen by the Chinese people. We firmly safeguard our national interests and dignity, and never negotiate on matters of principle or trade away our core interests. All this demonstrates
the honor and integrity of the Chinese nation, and has won understanding and respect of the international community.

We are committed to serving domestic development through diplomacy. Promoting development is an important, inherent mission of China’s diplomacy, and development is the number one priority of China, the largest developing country in the world. China’s diplomacy aims at promoting economic and social development of the country. We have enhanced friendship, exchanges and mutually-beneficial cooperation with other countries, and put forward new ideas and measures to serve domestic development. We have facilitated exchange of best practices, built bridges of friendship, and injected new impetus to the efforts to comprehensively deepen reform and opening-up, achieve high-quality economic development, and modernize the country’s system and capacity for governance.

We are committed to people-centered diplomacy. Serving the people is the very purpose of China’s diplomacy. The people-centered diplomacy of New China is invincible, as it is rooted in the people and benefits the people. China’s diplomacy puts people first and at the center. Whether our people feel benefited, secure and satisfied is the important scale in measuring the success of our work. We have made great efforts to ensure that the achievements of development reach all the people, and that is why we have been recognized and supported by the people.
Thank you for taking time to attend the Seminar on New China’s People-to-People Diplomacy in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA).

The CPIFA was founded on December 15, 1949, the first organization for people-to-people diplomacy of New China at the initiative of late Premier Zhou Enlai. Over the past seven decades, the CPIFA, with its founding mission and purpose firm in mind, has kept forging ahead and played an important role in expanding the space for China’s diplomacy, increasing mutual understanding and trust between China and other countries, and fostering a friendly international environment.

In the early days of New China, the most pressing task for China’s diplomacy was to get understanding

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and support from as many countries and peoples as possible. Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai and other founding fathers of New China made the foreign policy of focusing on the people, working with the people, and placing hopes on the people. The CPIFA worked creatively with other similar organizations through people-to-people diplomacy as a complement to governmental diplomacy to promote China’s official relations with other countries. These efforts greatly expanded New China’s diplomatic space by breaking diplomatic blockade and gaining international support.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the CPIFA actively supported and openly endorsed the Third World Countries’ struggle for independence, contributing to the establishment and growth of diplomatic ties between China and these countries. In the 1960s and 1970s, against the evolving international landscape, the CPIFA worked on people-to-people exchanges with the Western world, serving as a bridge for the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and major Western countries. After the launch of reform and opening-up, China’s external exchanges grew rapidly in all fields, ushering in a new historical period for people-to-people diplomacy. As an important part of the overall diplomatic work, people-to-people diplomacy helped to lay the foundation for the endeavor to consolidate popular support for state-to-state relations and create a peaceful and stable international environment for domestic development.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, the major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics has made headway on all fronts. Guided by Xi Jinping Thought
on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, the CPIFA stays committed to making friends for the country. It has further deepened exchanges with world-renowned statesmen, parliaments, think tanks and media organizations to promote bilateral relations; and actively conducted Track II dialogues to increase mutual understanding and trust; and communicated to the outside world the China story and its development path through bilateral and multilateral platforms, making active efforts towards a community with a shared future for mankind.

Over the past seven decades, the CPIFA has received more than 4,000 political, parliament, think tank and media delegations, with over 30,000 delegates. It has maintain long-term contacts with nearly 100 world renown statesmen and has established over 20 bilateral dialogue mechanisms with the US, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the ROK, India, Singapore, Australia and other countries. It has hosted and co-organized over 10 international forums and conferences, including the Understanding China Conference, CICA Non-Governmental Forum and World Peace Forum. People-to-people diplomacy has increasingly become an important channel and broad platform for stabilizing state-to-state relations, enhancing friendship, promoting practical cooperation and pursuing dialogues between civilizations. The CPIFA has been shouldering new responsibilities and making new accomplishments in supporting reform, development and stability of the country and serving China’s overall diplomacy.

II

People-to-people diplomacy is non-governmental in nature.
It is an important innovation in China’s diplomatic theory and practice, with the purpose of increasing people’s friendship and promoting state-to-state relations. Looking back on the past 70 years of people-to-people diplomacy, the CPIFA has made hard-won achievements and developed invaluable experiences.

**First, upholding the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC).** People-to-people diplomacy is an innovation made by the CPC and New China. The centralized unified leadership of the CPC provides fundamental political safeguards for the Chinese diplomacy to forge ahead against all odds, and is, more importantly, the lifeline of people-to-people diplomacy. It is by upholding the Party’s leadership that people-to-people diplomacy is able to stand firm on principles, move in the right direction, and pursue friendly exchanges far and wide with people of all countries in the world.

**Second, people-to-people diplomacy complements and facilitates governmental diplomacy.** Being flexible and stable, people-to-people diplomacy has a wide reach. People-to-people diplomacy and governmental diplomacy complement and facilitate each other. In the early years after the People’s Republic was founded, people-to-people diplomacy was not only a complement, but also a pioneer for governmental diplomacy. Since the start of reform and opening-up, people-to-people diplomacy, as needed by national development, has found its way into political, economic, cultural and other fields, growing in both depth and width and providing a solid foundation for China’s overall diplomacy.

**Third, people-to-people diplomacy aims to foster close bonds between peoples.** “State-to-state relations lie in close bonds and
amity between peoples.” People-to-people diplomacy is essentially about making friends and fostering close bonds, so as to cement popular support for state-to-state relations.

**Fourth, people-to-people diplomacy is characterized by resilience and long-term dedication.** As President Xi Jinping stated, friendship between peoples underpins world peace and development. People-to-people diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, which focuses on the people, needs patient and resilient efforts over a long time horizon. The power of friendship between peoples transcends national borders, time, space and civilizations. The more difficulties countries encounter in their relations, the more important people-to-people diplomacy is as an anchor and relief valve to improve relations.

**Fifth, people-to-people diplomacy keeps pace with the times and never ceases to break new ground.** Over the years, however different the circumstances have been, people-to-people diplomacy, while remaining true to its mission of forging friendship, has explored new ways and expanded to new areas to coordinate with China’s overall diplomacy under evolving circumstances and in light of the needs of the country. It has played a role that is both important and unique.

**III**

At a new starting point and at a time when the world is undergoing changes unseen in a century, people-to-people diplomacy has embarked on a new journey. As China’s major-country diplomacy in the new era forges ahead on all fronts, people-to-people diplomacy must adapt to new changes with
innovative efforts.

**First, always upholding the centralized unified leadership of the CPC.** People-to-people diplomacy is an important part of the CPC’s diplomatic work. At the new starting point of the journey toward the two Centenary Goals and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, there are unprecedented opportunities and challenges amidst changes unseen in a century. People-to-people diplomacy must be guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy. We at the CPIFA must strengthen the consciousness of the need to maintain political integrity, think in big-picture terms, follow the leadership core, and keep in alignment, enhance our confidence in the path, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics, uphold General Secretary Xi Jinping’s core position in both the CPC Central Committee and the Party as a whole, and uphold the CPC Central Committee’s authority and its centralized unified leadership. We will fully implement the policies of the CPC Central Committee and contribute to the theories, institutions and capacity building of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics.

**Second, garnering stronger popular support for the new type of international relations.** People-to-people diplomacy focuses on the people. We must leverage the flexibility, varied formats, diverse channels, and wide reach of people-to-people diplomacy to increase exchanges and mutual trust, communicate ideas, enhance friendship, and act as the lubricate for state-to-state relations and the sowing machine for friendship between peoples. This way, the new type of international relations will be endorsed by more people throughout the world.
Third, firmly defending national interests. Putting people and national interests first is the ultimate purpose of people-to-people diplomacy. While carrying out people-to-people diplomacy, we must act on behalf of the Chinese people’s fundamental interests and leverage our unique advantages and resources to firmly uphold national interests and create a favorable external environment for China’s development.

Fourth, improving China’s international image in innovative ways. Under new circumstances, people-to-people diplomacy must actively pursue exchanges with the rest of the world and let the world understand profound traditional Chinese cultures, China’s revolutionary history of hard struggles, and the process of reform and opening-up that has been made possible through pioneering efforts. In doing so, we must use true and lively stories to present a real, full, and all-dimensional picture of China in ways that can be easily understood by international audiences.

Fifth, actively promoting cooperation on the external front. As China is increasingly integrated into the international system with growing shared interests with the rest of the world, China’s future is more closely related to that of the world. China pursues a win-win strategy of opening-up, stands for multilateral cooperation, and advances the Belt and Road Initiative. People-to-people diplomacy must bear in mind the larger picture of national development, better serve reform and opening-up, and push forward China’s mutually beneficial cooperation with other countries.

Sixth, contributing to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. As China moves closer to the center of the world stage, people-to-people diplomacy must be actively
involved in multilateral affairs to add to the discussions on tackling global challenges, present China’s ideas and solutions, connect the Chinese dream with dreams of other peoples for a better life, and take mankind closer to a community with a shared future.

The world offers a big stage for people-to-people diplomacy. It is an innovative practice of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics and an indispensable part of China’s overall diplomacy. Over the past 70 years, the CPIFA has stayed committed to making friends for China and consistently pursued people-to-people diplomacy. Looking ahead, guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, people-to-people diplomacy will stay true to the founding mission, and fulfill its responsibilities. We will build stronger bridges connecting the Chinese people and people of other countries and make tireless efforts towards the two Centenary Goals, the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation and the dream of a world of lasting peace and common prosperity. 🐟
On behalf of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), I wish to warmly congratulate the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) on its 70th anniversary and pay our highest respect to all the colleagues of the institute.

It is quite fitting, on the important occasion of its 70th anniversary, for the CPIFA to host the Seminar on New China’s People-to-People Diplomacy and explore the subject of people-to-people diplomacy and public diplomacy. It allows us to review the past, take stock of what has been achieved, better prepare for the opportunities and challenges lying ahead, and find the best way to put into practice the Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy to build ever-stronger public support for China’s friendship with other countries. The CPIFA and the CPAFFC have been active players in people-to-people diplomacy since the founding of the People’s

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Republic of China. Like twin stars, we have been lighting up the way for Chinese and foreign publics to get to know each other and become friends. As a veteran in this field, I wish to share with you some of my thoughts.

People-to-people diplomacy, as a theory and a practice, reflects the theory of the Chinese Communist Party on mass line and united front. It is an important part of the overall diplomacy of the PRC and embodies the doctrine of the Party to put people at the center.

In its revolutionary days when the CPC was working in Yan’an, the Party leadership, such as Comrade Mao Zedong and Comrade Zhou Enlai, personally organized, directed and participated in people-to-people diplomatic events. As a result, foreigners like Edgar Snow, Agnes Smedley, Anna Louise Strong, and Rewi Alley sympathized with, supported, and explained the cause of the CPC to the world.

The Chinese People’s Committee for World Peace (Peace Committee) on 2 October 1949, one day after the People’s Republic of China was founded, with Mr. Guo Moruo as the President; a number of outstanding personnel in China’s diplomatic community worked in the committee to build people-to-people ties with the rest of the world. The CPIFA and CPAFFC were later created following the instructions of the CPC Central Committee. We were tasked to be one step ahead of official diplomacy and create a favorable environment for official diplomatic relations. Our hard work delivered growing international recognition of and international public support for the New China.
As China began the reform and opening-up program, it gradually built diplomatic relations with almost all countries in the world. Yet the role of people-to-people diplomacy is not diminished, but further strengthened. A great number of other similar institutes blossomed in the country. Together, we carried out diverse, rich and fruitful activities, making a real difference in increasing international knowledge about and goodwill towards China and helping the Chinese know and learn from their foreign friends.

Now, we are in a new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The party and state leadership value our role and commend our achievements. In 2012, then Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping said this during a meeting with members of CPAFFC executive board, “People-to-people diplomacy will only grow stronger, not weaker.” At the 60th anniversary of the CPAFFC in 2014, President Xi made an important statement, in which he recognized the importance of people-to-people diplomacy in China’s overall diplomatic work and asked the CPAFFC to continue to spearhead people-to-people diplomacy towards the goal of developing friendship between peoples, building bridges for state-to-state relations, and encouraging international cooperation.

It has been 45 years since I joined the CPAFFC in 1975 upon graduation from college. The most important thing I learned from my experience is this: people-to-people diplomacy can only thrive when it is an integral part of the overall diplomacy. President Xi rightly noted, as we move further and deeper in our career, we must be better able to think in a dialectic manner. A materialistic and dialectic approach to analyze and solve problems is the key to our continued progress in this new era. In line with the Xi Jinping
Thought on Diplomacy, I believe we need to better apply dialectic thinking in the following areas:

**First, the relationship between the Party’s leadership and public involvement.**

Our success in the past 70 years has only been possible with the leadership of the Party. Going forward, we must bear this in mind; strengthen the consciousness of the need to maintain political integrity, think in big-picture terms, follow the leadership core, and keep in alignment; enhance our confidence in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics; and uphold the authority of and centralized, unified leadership of the Central Committee and the core position of General Secretary Xi Jinping. This is our essential political guarantee. The Party, at the fourth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee, made the decision to deepen reform of the system and mechanism related to foreign relations; lay out a master plan for the foreign engagement activities of various actors, including the People’s Congresses, governments at all levels, the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, the military, local governments, and public organizations; and encourage them to each play their own part and conduct activities. In this process, maintaining diversity and flexibility of people-to-people diplomacy will be important.

**Second, the relationship between justice and interests.**

Building a community with a shared future for mankind is at the center of the Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy and China’s overarching goal in diplomacy in the new era. President Xi stressed this point on multiple occasions, citing such ancient Chinese
sayings as “a man of integrity makes it a principle to uphold justice” and “Grabbing fortune and power by unjust means is far below me”. When you put it in a long-term perspective, justice and interests are often inseparable; helping another country can be not only beneficial to the one receiving it, but also rewarding for the one giving it. In people-to-people diplomacy, we must also value friendship and justice. Friendship may begin with mutual interests, but it can only sustain on the basis of goodwill and justice. Understanding the truth of this a long time ago, our forefathers said, “Relations built on interests only last as long as the interests do; relations built around power dissipate when power collapses.” Real friends are never won over a couple of drinks, but only with years or even decades of mutual support. President Xi’s words about taking into account both interests and justice, putting justice first, and giving up interests for justice when necessary, are important to remember as we seek to build more friendship in the new era.

Third, the relationship between official and unofficial interactions.

In our field of work, the people is at the center. We must be able to understand what they want, connect with them, and deliver for them. For quite some time, our guests from abroad tend to limit themselves to seeing the big cities, talking to government officials, and sitting in conference rooms. Not many visited the rural areas and local communities and engaged the ordinary Chinese. This is not helpful when we are trying to tell a real story about China and share China’s experience. The CPAFFC has been acting on some new ideas in recent years. In addition to official meetings, we made sure our programs always included visits to high-tech
parks, townships and villages, factories, communities, businesses, and higher education institutions. There, our guests can see how government policies are being translated into action, listen to the voices of the ordinary Chinese, and witness the dedication of our Party members. Then they can come to their own conclusions whether China’s system, theory, and path are correct and great. It turns out these experiences and interactions are much more fun and informative than presentations in a meeting room. As we do this, we keep in contact with our old friends and make new friends.

**Fourth, relationship between principle and flexibility.**

President Xi observes that our world is undergoing changes unseen before in a century. In this context, our party is engaging in a great struggle, great project, and great cause, and working for a great dream. We have a lot to do to continue reform and develop the country while maintaining its stability. In front of us are rare opportunities and significant risks and tests. To realize the goals set by the Party, we must build our own capacity and stand up for our principles.

What is happening in international relations also makes it clear that people-to-people diplomacy will face more daunting challenges. Our great struggle requires courage, strategies, and tactics, as instructed by President Xi. Struggle is not simply defeating the other side; it is an art that can build the widest possible circle of friends while isolating the very few enemies. On issues of China’s core interests and fundamental principles, we must be brave to struggle for upholding our principles; on other issues, we may also seek common ground and shelve differences and show flexibility in our approach. Those who speak in support
of us are friends; those who disagree with us and speak truthfully about their minds are people we shall make friends. The ability to make real friends is the charm of people-to-people diplomacy.

According to President Xi, China must practice its own major-country diplomacy. To do this, we must learn from our past practices, enrich and evolve our understanding of diplomatic work, and stamp it with China’s own style and features. People-to-people diplomacy is one such unique feature developed in the past 70 years. In this new era, the CPAFFC will continue to work hand in hand with the CPIFA to combine our respective strength for a bigger impact. Together, we will develop a better understanding of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy and implement it on the ground, enhance our dialectic thinking, adapt to the changing realities, and address new challenges. I am confident we will be able to cooperate hand in hand and jointly contribute to China’s overall diplomacy.
As a practitioner of China’s diplomatic thoughts and former President of CPIFA, I find it a great honor to speak here at today’s seminar commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Institute.

People-to-people diplomacy makes up a pivotal part in China’s diplomacy. Its theory emerged and developed against a complicated international background after the founding of the People’s Republic of China. The people-to-people diplomacy is a pioneering undertaking of New China’s diplomacy with distinctive Chinese characteristics and features of the times.

Americans first put forward the notion of public diplomacy in the 1960s, whereas the thought on people-to-people diplomacy came about in China in 1949. The establishment of the CPIFA in December 1949 marked the beginning of people-to-people diplomacy in China.

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People-to-people diplomacy, non-governmental diplomacy or public diplomacy, is unique in its flexibility, thus becomes an important supplement to official diplomacy. At the beginning of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, it was challenged by imperialist blockade and containment. Only 10 countries established diplomatic ties with China in 1949. The number rose to merely 18 in the 1950s. Hence a lot of diplomatic work remained to be carried out through non-governmental diplomacy. Under such circumstances, how to break through the blockade and containment imposed by imperialist countries, forge friendly relations with peoples around the world, establish the position of New China on the international stage, and win wide recognition around the globe? Apparently, official diplomacy was not enough, and non-governmental organizations and channels were needed to bring into play the role of people-to-people diplomacy. This was how people-to-people diplomacy emerged.

The Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (set up in December 1949), the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (founded in 1954 and then named the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries) and other such organizations played a vital part in developing and cementing friendship with other peoples, and assisting and promoting the establishment of relations with Western countries, including developed countries.

Over the past 70 years since the People's Republic of China was founded, particularly the 40 years since the start of Reform and Opening-up, the thoughts, theories, and practice of people-to-people diplomacy have kept developing. People-to-people diplomacy has made significant contributions to advancing Chi-
na’s reform, opening-up and growth, increasing the mutual understanding with other nations, and enlarging our circle of friends.

The world is undergoing changes unseen in a century; meanwhile, China is faced with unprecedented opportunities and challenges. Every single move of China bears upon the world and its relationship with the world. While the world is rediscovering China, praisers and admirers abound, so do misconceivers, skeptics and defamers. As an old Chinese saying goes, those that stand out tend to cause jealousy. At such a moment, the key task of people-to-people diplomacy is to tell China stories properly, make China's voice heard, present an authentic and vivid China, shatter false beliefs and distinguish the right from the wrong, ensure correct understandings, establish a good image of China on the international stage, facilitate people-to-people connectivity and affinity, so as to create an favorable and friendly international environment for the achievement of the two centenary goals. People-to-people diplomacy shall closely focus on the central tasks of China's overall diplomacy, cooperate with the country’s major diplomatic moves, and exert full efforts in contributing to the big picture of China's diplomatic work.

People-to-people diplomacy shall mobilize and coordinate resources on all fronts, bringing into full play the role of think-tanks, media, the academia, business community, influential government officials and local professional institutes. Recently, I visited Shanghai and Hangzhou to study how public diplomacy was carried out at the local level. I used to doubt about the comment of Zhao Qizheng (former Director of the State Council Information Office) that the real strength of public diplomacy lies in the people. After my visit, I’m convinced of the power of public
diplomacy and deeply believed in what he said. A lot can be done in public diplomacy by making full use of non-governmental connections. That's why people-to-people diplomacy should engage diverse resources and forces for synergy and better effects.

Innovation in approaches and means is also a must to adapt to the highly-advanced information-based society. A multitude of communication means and platforms shall be employed to diversify communication approaches and methods.

We shall value the development of theory and practice on people-to-people diplomacy to enrich its content. Over the past 70 years, a lot of good experience, examples and practice have been accumulated across different periods. We shall advance the theory on people-to-people diplomacy based on successful practices, and adopt the theory in the future practice of people-to-people diplomacy.

In short, the most important factor in people-to-people diplomacy is still people. We must have a large pool of talents, that should well know both China and the world, specialized in both policies and expertise, and be fluent in both Chinese and foreign languages. In severe lack of such talents, it’s urgent to deliver a great number of professionals good at publicity, languages and communication. This is imperative if we are to undertake people-to-people diplomacy and go global.

People-to-people diplomacy requires persistence. We need to make unremitting efforts for months, for years, or even for generations, so as to achieve people-to-people understanding, affinity and friendship that last long.
In a word, people-to-people diplomacy in the New Era is an arduous task and a promising undertaking. The China Public Diplomacy Association is ready to join hands with the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and all other organizations that work on people-to-people diplomacy, support and collaborate with each other, and break new grounds in the field of people-to-people diplomacy under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy.
Following Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy and Turning a New Page for People-to-People Diplomacy

By Li Junru*

As a special “volunteer diplomat”, I wish to warmly congratulate the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) on its 70th anniversary. Over the past 70 years, the Institute made remarkable achievements in people-to-people diplomacy, giving strong support to the diplomatic endeavors of the CPC Central Committee. Today, under the powerful guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, the CPIFA is set to embrace an even better future in this new era of great change and transformation.

I

Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy forms an important part of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. Informed by the realities in the new era of socialism with Chinese

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characteristics, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy sustains China’s commitment to the path of peaceful development and the goal of building a community with a shared future for mankind. It is an umbrella theory for China’s diplomacy which adapts the doctrines of Marxism to China’s conditions.

**Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy is conceived in a dynamic environment, in which China is on course to realize its great rejuvenation while the global landscape is undergoing changes unseen in a century.**

National rejuvenation has been the greatest dream of the Chinese people since modern times; and never before have we been so close to it. But the last leg of a journey is usually the most challenging. To keep pushing forward, we must understand our success is not only to be determined by how we maintain China’s own growth, but also how we respond to the changes beyond our borders. The first wave of economic globalization saw China left out and behind and fell into a miserable fate of being bullied by the foreign countries. The second wave, cut short by world wars, socialist revolutions, and national liberation struggles, witnessed China’s hard-won independence and liberation, and “the Chinese people, accounting for one quarter of the world’s population, finally stood up”. During the third wave of economic globalization, China seized the opportunities to reform and open itself, develop a socialist market economy, and fully engage in economic globalization and ICT application. Historic transformations have since taken place in the country. The Chinese people, who are better off now, exert their utmost to build a stronger country. At this critical juncture, the world in which we live is going through changes unseen in a century. Peace, development and all-win
cooperation are the trend of times; technologies, such as the Internet, big data, cloud computing, and AI, are booming. Global challenges are also on the rise. In particular, anti-globalization sentiments are driven by trade protectionism and populism, creating tremendous uncertainties for the world and China’s rejuvenation. What is happening to our world? What shall we do about it? These are the questions asked everywhere around the globe. It is against this background that Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy took its shape.

The Thought traces back to the founding mission of the CPC in order to answer the questions facing China and the rest of the world.

Xi Jinping is a Marxist statesman well versed in philosophy and history, with an international perspective and a keen sense of mission. He carefully examined the torrents shaking up the world and the difficult questions of our times. His mind revolves around a set of fundamental questions: Where did we come from? Where are we? Where would we like to go? Such insight! This has been a timeless philosophical inquiry in human history. Xi Jinping was wise to go back to this line of thinking to address the questions at hand, thus giving birth to Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy in the new era.

In an attempt to answer these questions in diplomacy, we must look back on the founding mission of the Communist Party of China and think about how to fulfill it diplomatically in the new era. In Xi’s words, the CPC works for the happiness of the Chinese people and the progress of mankind. Everything the CPC does is to improve the Chinese people’s well-being, to rejuvenate
the nation, and to foster peace and development for mankind. Xi is not only focused on the past, present, and future of the CPC, the socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the Chinese nation; he is also looking back and forward for the whole world. He once noted, “Over the past century and more, mankind has gone through bloody hot wars and the chilling Cold War, but also achieved remarkable development and huge progress.” “Peace and development: this has been the aspiration held dear by mankind over the past century. However, the goal to achieve peace and development is far from being met. We need to respond to the call of the people, take up the baton of history and forge ahead on the marathon track toward peace and development.”

In the new era, what kind of socialism with Chinese characteristics shall we uphold and promote? How are we going to do about it? These are the questions the Party is working to address in the new era. In this context, Xi believes it is important for China’s diplomacy to closely associate itself with the goal of developing socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era, with China’s rejuvenation, and with peace and development for the human community. This is the context that Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy came into being.

II

For this reason, I hope we can receive support from the CPIFA in order to better understand and act on Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy.

China’s diplomacy has made historical achievements since the founding of the PRC, especially since the policy of reform
and opening-up was introduced. As we enter the new era, under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and thanks to the personal devotion of Xi himself, China’s diplomacy has reached an all-dimensional approach which takes into account both the domestic and international situations and serves the three overarching priorities of development, security and human rights.

China’s diplomacy is all-dimensional in its overall plan. China is now increasingly active in carrying out major-country diplomacy and neighborhood diplomacy, building relations with other developing countries, and acting multilaterally, especially in the UN (including the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Human Rights Council) and other international and regional organizations. Besides its relations with the US, China is engaging with many other countries and regions, such as Russia, the EU, Africa, and the Latin American countries.

It is all-dimensional in terms of its participating parties. Now, in addition to the government diplomacy and party diplomacy, many others are joining in the diplomatic work, such as the National People’s Congress, the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, people’s organizations, various government agencies, and media outlets. Public diplomacy and international exchange by the general public is growing fast.

It is all-dimensional in its areas of engagement. While working on relations between states and political parties, China’s diplomatic engagement is also seen in economic cooperation and trade; dialogues in culture, human rights, and military; and judicial cooperation including repatriation of corruption fugitives; and
security cooperation, which includes cyber-security. As the country implements a strategy of comprehensive opening-up, its diplomatic work in all these areas complements its economic opening and produces an excellent combined effect. The Belt and Road Initiative, which promotes China’s integration into a globalized world by expanding land and sea transport lines, opening the country eastward and westward, and creating connections online and offline, is also taking diplomacy into a new stage defined by comprehensive engagement in economic, cultural, and security fields.

It is all-dimensional for the variety of people engaged, which include not only heads of state, diplomats and other government officials, but also members of parliament, business leaders, academics, human rights workers, intellectuals and artists, and those working on social issues.

It is all-dimensional in its channels of communication. Now, China works on track one, track two, and track 1.5 to engage with the world. The increasing think tank exchanges have also been instrumental in tackling the difficult issues between states and in international events. In recent years, China is hosting more international events as a way of conducting diplomacy, putting the country in a positive international spotlight.

**Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy crystallizes such an all-dimensional diplomacy unprecedented in China’s history. It is crucial that we fully understand the essence of the Thought and let it shape our actions. I am confident the CPIFA will earnestly study the theories of the Thought and make new progress under its guidance.**
III.

Studying and practicing the Though essentially requires us to stay committed to peaceful development and build a community with a shared future for mankind.

This is a pivotal moment in history: China is about to achieve its rejuvenation and the world is changing at a pace unprecedented in a century. **China has two overarching missions for its diplomacy: find the way for a fast-growing China to interact with the world and contribute to building a better world.**

At the beginning of the 21st century, China made clear to the world its enduring commitment to the path of peaceful development. The fast-growing country will neither follow the spectre of colonialism, nor modernize by way of waging wars, or repeat expansionism and hegemonism. Made-up theories like “China threat” or “China meltdown” have never stopped jostling for international attention; yet none of them has any credibility to show for. Later, when the Chinese economy grew to be the world’s second largest, all sorts of conjectures about China were tossed around by those who would only look at the country through colored lenses. In response, Xi Jinping shared his observations that China and the rest of the world had come to “a convergence of interests” and live in “a community with shared interests” and “a community with a shared future”. He expounded on China’s logic of not making wars, bullying others, pursuing its interest at the expense of others, or dominating the world, but building partnerships so that we can all live in a community with a shared future.
Xi Jinping’s thought on building a community with a shared future for mankind not only helps us understand how China will engage the world as its strength grows, but also how China envisages international relations and order. He calls on the international community to forge partnerships, promote security, develop the economy, increase cultural exchange, and protect the environment, so as to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity. The defining goal of China’s diplomacy is to shape a community with a shared future for human beings. To make it happen, China will be a steady force for peaceful and common development and the multilateral trading system and actively participates in global economic governance.

To conclude, Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy is an important part of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. It represents the latest achievement in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context on diplomacy under the leadership of the CPC. It is a guide to action as we make all-round efforts to advance diplomatic work.
The Continuity and Evolution of People-to-People Diplomacy since the Founding of the People’s Republic of China

By Yang Jiemian*

China’s people-to-people diplomacy has had 70 years of extraordinary development along the path blazed by Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai. With in mind the new landscape home and abroad, we shall follow the guidance of Xi Jinping’s thought on diplomacy, cherish and carry forward the fine tradition of people-to-people diplomacy, and make new contributions to major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the New Era.

I. Continuity in the objective and mission of people-to-people diplomacy.

Consistent with that of the nation’s overall diplomacy, the objective and mission of people-to-people diplomacy in China serves China’s sovereignty, security and development interests. In the first 10 to 20 years of the People’s Republic of China, the unique advantages of people-to-people diplomacy was

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brought into full play thanks to Mao Zedong's strategizing and Zhou Enlai's direct leadership. It helped break the blockade and containment imposed by hostile international forces and enlist the understanding and support for China's revolution and development from countries across the world, especially those that didn't have diplomatic relations with China, thus becoming a frontrunner in non-governmental diplomacy and public diplomacy.

It should be noted that, people-to-people diplomacy played a special and irreplaceable role in the establishment of relations with such nations as France, Japan and the United States. During the Reform and Opening Up, people-to-people diplomacy worked according to the shift of national priorities. A great deal of efforts were put into promoting exchanges among sister provinces and cities, enhancing trade and economic cooperation, strengthening interaction among educational and cultural communities, and increasing mutual understanding and support. Such efforts delivered remarkable success and proved to be a strong support to China's overall diplomacy.

Since the start of the New Era, under the new circumstances, people-to-people diplomacy has also opened a new path and made new contributions to improving relations with major countries, neighboring countries and developing countries. Meanwhile, by offering Chinese wisdom and solutions in multilateral diplomacy, specific fields and the resolution of hot-button issues, people-to-people diplomacy has helped the world to better understand China and render greater support to China's foreign policy.
II. Evolving actors, targets and features of people-to-people diplomacy.

Over the past seven decades, sweeping changes have taken place in and out of China. While its basic features of non-governmental and civil engagement persist, people-to-people diplomacy has witnessed advances in its actors, targets and features.

1. All-dimensional increase of actors. When the People's Republic of China was newly founded, people-to-people diplomacy involved merely a few organizations; now, it has become far more representative since more and more local governments, ministerial authorities, elites and the general public have taken part. At the 2008 Beijing Olympics, 2010 Shanghai World Expo, and other non-government diplomatic events, China’s people-to-people diplomacy embraced unprecedented width, depth and warmth.

2. Exponential growth in targets. At various historical stages including post-war national liberation movements, economic globalization and universal access to information, the targets for China's people-to-people diplomacy are no longer limited to friendship organizations, institutions and personages, but cover all sorts of entities, and even explore into the virtual world, in this way, China's network of friends has been extended to the greatest extent, and the mutual understanding and support between China and the world has been furthered.

3. Addition of contemporary features. As the domestic and international landscape changes over time, people-to-people diplomacy has taken on many contemporary features. First, more
emphasis on the role of the people, therefore a stronger initiative and sense of accomplishment from the general public. Second, leveraging the economic and technological community, so that economic and financial upgrading, information revolution, artificial intelligence and cutting-edge science and technology are more closely integrated with people-to-people diplomacy. Third, stress on strategic thinking and the role of high-end think tanks and academic diplomacy in people-to-people diplomacy. The changes and progress as embodied in those features have mirrored the new historical mission and duty of people-to-people diplomacy.

III. Development and innovation of thoughts and theories on people-to-people diplomacy.

Thoughts and theories represent the soul of people-to-people diplomacy. We shall, by increasing consciousness of practice and theory, step up efforts in the development and innovation of thoughts and theories on the people-to-people diplomacy.

First, fully understand Xi Jinping's important thought on people-to-people diplomacy. Given the changes and challenges home and abroad, people-to-people diplomacy is, more than any time ever, in need of theoretical guidance. Related important thought of Xi Jinping is the crystallization of thoughts on people-to-people diplomacy since 1949. It includes the rationale behind the actions and approaches of people-to-people diplomacy, for the time being and for a long time to come.

Second, timely review and develop in depth the people-to-people diplomacy. In the face of unprecedented changes and significant increases in uncertainties and instabilities, we need
to draw on history, pose questions for the present, and set course for the future. We shall, by summarizing experience, discovering patterns, and keeping on the right track, achieve more in the guiding principle, top-level design, strategic thinking and practical work on people-to-people diplomacy.

Third, increase international exchanges on the thoughts and theories of people-to-people diplomacy. People-to-people diplomacy has universal significance in international relations and global affairs. Hence it is important to step up mutual learning on people-to-people diplomacy within the region and across the world through cooperative research, international meetings, publication and events, with a view to raising the global influence and significance of China's people-to-people diplomacy, and at the same time, jointly facilitating the theory development on a new type of international relations and a community of shared future for mankind.

Looking back at the glorious 70 years of China's people-to-people diplomacy, we shall raise political awareness and be oriented towards an international perspective, strive to explore and innovate in future development, and open a new chapter in the people-to-people diplomacy of China.
First of all, I wish to extend warm congratulations on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA). Over the past 70 years, CPIFA has played an extremely important and unique role in promoting China’s diplomatic engagement, building friendly relationship with other countries, and raising the country’s profile through greater communication for mutual understanding between our people and the world. I believe that under the leadership of President Wang Chao and with the joint efforts of all our able colleagues, CPIFA will go from strength to strength and achieve even greater success.

People-to-people diplomacy is the hallmark of CPIFA, and more importantly, an important part of China’s overall diplomacy. It is of great theoretical and practical value for us therefore to discuss the philosophy of people-to-people diplomacy of the PRC as we mark the 70th anniversary of the founding

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of CPIFA, as it adds new dimensions to the development of the diplomatic theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics and guides further progress of the people-to-people diplomacy.

The People-to-people diplomacy is an initiative of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) and the People’s Republic of China, which bears distinctive Chinese characteristics, and inherits fine traditional Chinese cultures and the CPC’s experience in revolution and diplomacy over the years. It embodies the following features.

First, placing great importance on the role of the people. Late Premier Zhou Enlai said that, relations between the people of two countries must be built more with the initiative of the people themselves instead of relying solely on career diplomats. In his speech entitled Our Foreign Policy and Mission dated 30 April 1952, he stressed that, we must unite the people of the world, and reach out to not only those of our brotherly countries, but also the people of former colonial and semi-colonial countries and the capitalist world….Diplomacy aims to promote state-to-state relations, but it does so through getting support from the people. The truth is state-to-state diplomacy and people-to-people diplomacy are mutually reinforcing. We should always get it right. General Secretary Xi Jinping has stated on many occasions that, it is people-to-people friendship and ultimately mutual understanding between the peoples that holds the key to good state-to-state relations. Either the principle of “amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness” guiding our relations with neighboring countries, or the guidelines of “sincerity, real results, amity and good faith” for our engagement with African countries, both emphasize the importance of friendship between peoples. People-to-people diplomacy, in the final analysis, is about building closer
bonds, enhancing mutual understanding and promoting friendship and mutual trust between peoples, which helps consolidate popular support for state-to-state relations.

**Second, laying equal stress on non-governmental diplomacy in supplement and promotion of governmental diplomacy.** According to late Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Chen Yi, China’s people-to-people diplomacy is carried out on both government and non-government tracks. The integration and flexibility of the two tracks constitutes the system of our people-to-people diplomacy and the most distinctive feature of our external relations. In the early days of the PRC, people-to-people diplomacy often acted as the forerunner of official diplomacy. By strengthening ties with the people of other countries, it helped China break the diplomatic blockade imposed by the imperialist countries and win international support. As is known to all, it played a crucial role in diplomatic recognition between China and France and the normalization of relations between China and Japan. Even today when our diplomacy has widely broadened its horizon, it continues to play an important role in promoting China's relations with other countries, especially those who have disputes or frictions with China or those yet to establish diplomatic relations with China.

**Third, diplomacy with warmth of humanity.** Internationally renowned political activists are among those we first reach out to in our people-to-people diplomacy. These are often former senior statesmen who have made contribution to China’s relations with their own countries. We never forget old friends when making new ones. This approach is much different from the practice of some other countries. In fact, our people-to-people diplomacy
with warmth of humanity can bring into better play their unique influence in and further promoting bilateral relations between China and their own countries.

**Fourth, giving full play to public diplomacy.** Public diplomacy aims to help people of other countries increase knowledge and understanding of China and improve our national image. Therefore, besides internationally renowned political activists, people-to-people diplomacy also covers parliamentarians, scholars, dignitaries and young elites who, as “opinion leaders”, have key voices in shaping China’s image in their own countries. These people can help the elites and the general public of their respective countries better understand China’s development philosophy, its economic and social dynamics and governance experience. It is learned that the CPIFA has held many forums and international conferences on various topics in recent years, becoming another key voice of public diplomacy to tell China story and its development path.

The world today is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. Competition among major powers is getting increasingly fierce. China is facing more complex challenges in international public opinion as the West, led by the United States, has becoming more brazen in making groundless accusations in their smear campaign against China. Against this background, people-to-people diplomacy carries a new mission of winning understanding and trust of the general public overseas. It is important to summarize the valuable experience of people-to-people diplomacy in the past 70 years, gain a thorough understanding of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy and further enrich the philosophy of people-to-people diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. Greater efforts should be
made to substantiate the content of people-to-people diplomacy while staying true to our original aspiration and mission, with a view to making greater contribution to promoting major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics and building a global community with a shared future.
Visits & Events

Wang Qishan Meets with Representatives of Former Foreign Political Heavyweights and Former Diplomatic Envoys to China Attending the Reception Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA)

On December 16, 2019, Vice President Wang Qishan met with former Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama of Japan and other representatives of former foreign political heavyweights and former diplomatic envoys to China attending the reception commemorating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

Wang Qishan said, China’s growth is inseparable from a good international environment, and China’s development is also
beneficial to the world. The Chinese government has all along attached great importance to non-governmental diplomacy. As the current international situation is constantly changing, the importance of building a solid foundation of people-to-people friendship has become more prominent. We need to continuously deepen the understanding between the Chinese people and the people from other countries, promote communication, dialogue and cooperation among all parties, and inject more positive energy into world peace, stability and prosperity. We hope you, the old friends of the Chinese people, will continue to make contributions to promoting the development of the friendly relations between China and your countries.

Yukio Hatoyama and others congratulated the CPIFA on the 70th anniversary of its founding, adding that they will continue to make even greater contributions to pushing bilateral relations and promoting non-governmental friendship in the future.

After the meeting, Wang Qishan and the Chinese and foreign representatives attending the reception took a group photo.

Yang Jiechi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, attended the above activities.

Yang Jiechi Attends and Addresses the Reception Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA)

On December 16, 2019, Yang Jiechi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party
of China (CPC) and Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, attended and addressed the reception commemorating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) in Beijing.

Congratulating the CPIFA on the 70th anniversary of its founding, Yang Jiechi said, the CPIFA was founded on the initiative of the late Premier Zhou Enlai, the first institute of its kind devoted to people-to-people diplomacy after the founding of the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Since its inception, the CPIFA has been actively playing its unique role in people-to-people diplomacy, serving the overall interests of China’s reform, development and stability and supporting China’s overall diplomacy.

Yang Jiechi said, one of the distinctive attributes of the PRC’s diplomacy is to uphold the position of the people. People-to-People diplomacy has become an important part of the PRC’s diplomacy. Over the past 70 years, China’s diplomacy has taken root among
the people and delivered benefits to them, and always born in mind and practiced the purpose of diplomacy for the people. People-to-People diplomacy has played an irreplaceable role in enhancing friendship among the people, cementing state-to-state relations, promoting practical cooperation and facilitating exchanges among civilizations, and has made important contributions to China’s overall diplomacy.

Yang Jiechi said, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that China cannot develop itself in isolation from the world, and the world needs China for global prosperity. Over the past 70 years, the relationship between China and the world has undergone historic changes. China’s international status is rising, with growing international influence and more and more contributions to the world. China is committed to independence, and also has been actively cooperating with other countries and making friends both extensively and deeply. We have never forgotten the friendship of the people of other countries towards the Chinese people.

Yang Jiechi said, the world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. The international landscape is undergoing deep adjustment and the trend towards a multi-polar world and economic globalization is unstoppable. Next year, China will complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and achieve its first centenary goal. China will stick to the path of peaceful development and its development will certainly bring more opportunities to the world. We firmly believe that friendly exchanges among the people are the fundamental force for promoting world peace and development and we will always march forward hand in hand with the people around the world.

President Wang Chao of CPIFA hosted the reception. Nearly 300 Chinese and foreign guests attended the reception, including former Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama of Japan, former Prime
On December 16, 2019, the Seminar on New China’s People-to-people Diplomacy was held in CPIFA. Over 30 guests from ministries, social organizations, universities and think-tanks, including Honorary President Li Zhaoxing, President Wang Chao of CPIFA, President Li Xiaolin of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, President Wu Hailong of the China Public Diplomacy Association, Senior Vice President Li Junru of the China Institute for Innovation & Development Strategy, Chairman Yang Jiemian of the Academic Affairs Council of the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies and President Minister Shaukat Aziz of Pakistan, Head of the Diplomatic Corps in China and Cambodian Ambassador to China Khek Cai Mealy Sysoda and other diplomatic envoys to China, representatives from think tanks and cooperation institutions as well as friendly personages.
Qi Zhenhong of the China Institute of International Studies attended the seminar. Vice President Li Huilai of CPIFA moderated the seminar and read the address from Vice Foreign Minister Qin Gang. Vice President Zhao Weiping, Ou Boqian, Zhang Dan and some former leading members of CPIFA also attended the seminar.

The seminar is one of the activities commemorating the 70th anniversary of the founding of CPIFA. The participants held in-depth discussions on China’s people-to-people diplomacy theories, practices, opportunities and challenges.

The Third Conference of the CICA Non-Governmental Forum Successfully Held

The Third Conference of CICA Non-Governmental Forum was successfully held from December 18 to 19, 2019 in Chongqing. The Conference was hosted by CPIFA, organized by the People’s Government of Chongqing Municipality, co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China and supported by China Public Diplomacy Association.
Mr. Xia Baolong, Vice Chairman and Secretary-General of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, as the chairman of the Third Conference of CICA Non-Governmental Forum, attended the opening ceremony and plenary session and delivered a keynote speech. Chen Min’er, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Secretary of the CPC Chongqing Municipal Committee and Tang Liangzhi, mayor of Chongqing, met with major representatives from home and abroad. President Wang Chao of CPIFA presided over the opening ceremony and plenary session, made opening remarks and hosted a luncheon for some of the guests. Vice President Li Huilai of CPIFA attended the opening ceremony, the plenary session and roundtable panel.

About 300 Chinese and foreign officials, experts, scholars, media representatives and foreign envoys from nearly 30 CICA member countries and observer countries attended the conference, including Chamal Rajapaksa, Minister of Mahaweli, Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Development, State Minister for Defence and former Speaker of Parliament of Sri Lanka, Bhokin Bhalakula, former Speaker of the House of Representatives of Thailand, Rashid Alimov, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, Muratbek Imanaliev, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, Habibullo Mirzozoda, Executive Director of the Secretariat of the CICA. The conference was held with the theme of “A Vision for CICA: Building an Asian Community of Shared Destiny”. Besides the opening ceremony and plenary session, there are 5 roundtable panels around the topics of “Asia Security Cooperation: A Region in Transformation and Missions Ahead”, “Openness and Cooperation for Common Security—Jointly Build a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace”, “Comprehensive Connectivity”, “Green, Inclusive &
Sustainable Asia”, “Strengthen Media Dialogue and Cooperation: Advocate the Asian Security Concept and Build a Community with a Shared Future for Asians”. The participants had in-depth exchange of views on enhancing dialogue and mutual trust among countries in the region, implementing the new vision of security featuring common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, deepening mutually beneficial cooperation and promoting peace, stability and development in Asia.

The establishment of CICA Non-Governmental Forum was an important initiative launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping at CICA Shanghai Summit in May, 2014. The first and second conferences were successfully held in Beijing in 2015 and 2017.

**Vice President Li Huilai Heading CPIFA Delegation Visits Bulgaria, Malta and Cyprus**

Vice President Li Huilai heading the CPIFA Delegation visited Bulgaria, Malta and Cyprus from 24 November to 2 December, 2019.
In Bulgaria, Vice President Li Huilai met respectively with Mr. Stoyanov, former President of Bulgaria, Mr. Jablianov, Deputy Chairperson of the Foreign Policy Committee of Bulgarian National Assembly, and Mr. Georgiev, Vice Foreign Minister of Bulgaria. The two sides had a friendly exchange of views on China-Bulgaria relations, China-Europe relations, jointly building the Belt and Road, “17+1” Cooperation and other issues of common concern. Vice President Li also met with the President Zahariev and Vice President Binev of the Bulgarian National Association for the Belt and Road. The two sides explored the possibilities of future exchanges and cooperation between two institutions. Mr. Yan Jianqun, charge d’affaires of the Chinese embassy in Bulgaria, participated in the above events.

In Malta, H.E. George Vella, President of Malta, met with Vice President Li Huilai in the Grandmaster’s Palace on 28 Nov. Vice President Li also met respectively with H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, former President of Malta, Mr. Alex S. Trigona, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister and former Foreign Minister of
Malta, and Mr. Reno Calleja, President of Malta-China Friendship Society. The two sides had a friendly exchange of views on China-Malta relations, China-Europe relations, jointly building the Belt and Road, international and regional situations as well as other issues of common concern. H.E. Mr. Jiang Jiang, Chinese Ambassador to Malta, participated in the above meetings.

In Cyprus, Vice President Li Huilai met respectively with Mr. Demetris Syllouris, President of the House of Representatives of Cyprus, Mr. George V. Vassiliou, former President of Cyprus, Mr. George Chacalli, Political Director of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus, Mr. Giouliamos, Rector of the European University Cyprus and Mr. Katsourides, Director of the Prometheus Research Institute. The two sides had a friendly exchange of views on China-Cyprus relations, China-Europe relations, jointly building the Belt and Road, international and regional situations, and other issues of common concern. Mr. Wang Sheng, charge d’affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Cyprus, participated in the above events.
On 3 December, Mr. Wang Chao, President of CPIFA, met with Mr. Olaful Ragnar Grimsson, former President of Iceland. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations and Arctic cooperation. Ambassador Zhao Weiping, Vice President of CPIFA, was present at the meeting.

The 12th Symposium on China-Japan Relations Held in Beijing

On November 27, the 12th Symposium on China-Japan Relations, cosponsored by the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) and Nakasone Peace Institute (NPI), was held in Beijing. Nearly 30 delegates from the two sides attended the symposium. The Chinese side was headed by Wang Chao,
President of CPIFA, and the Japanese side was headed by Hirofumi Nakasone, Vice President of NPI and former Foreign Minister of Japan.

President Wang Chao and Akio Mimura, Vice President of NPI made keynote remarks, and Atsushi Ueno, Charge d'Affaires ad interim from Embassy of Japan in China made a congratulatory remark at the opening ceremony. Delegates of the two sides made in-depth discussions on "Advancing with the times, building Sino-Japanese relations in line with the requirements of the new era", "Northeast Asia under rarely-seen profound changes in a century" and "How to respond to the evolution of global economic situation".

During the stay in Beijing, Ms. Fu Ying, Vice Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the 13th National People’s Congress (NPC), Chairperson of the Center for International Security and Strategy of Tsinghua University, met with the Japanese delegation.
The Symposium on China-Japan Relations was initiated in 2007 and is held annually in rotation between China and Japan. As an important platform for experts and scholars from various fields to meet regularly and exchange ideas, the symposium plays a positive role in deepening mutual understanding between the two peoples and promoting bilateral relations.

President Wang Chao Attends the International Conference in Honor of the 2570th Anniversary of Confucius and the Sixth Congress of the International Confucian Association

The International Conference in Honor of the 2570th Anniversary of Confucius and the Sixth Congress of the International Confucian Association (ICA) was held in Beijing from November 16 to 19. Chinese Vice-President Wang Qishan attended and addressed the opening ceremony. Japanese former Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda and Egyptian former Prime Minister
Essam Sharaf were invited to attend the opening ceremony and delivered speeches. President Wang Chao of CPIFA also attended the opening ceremony.

Under the theme “Confucianism and Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind”, this year’s conference is hosted by ICA, UNESCO and China Confucius Foundation, and co-hosted by CPIFA and Guiyang Confucius Academy. About 800 guests from home and abroad attended the opening ceremony and about 400 experts and scholars specialized in Confucianism participated in academic seminars.

**President Wang Chao Meets with Former Prime Minister of Sweden**

On 18th November, Mr. Wang Chao, President of CPIFA, met with Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt, former Prime Minister of Sweden. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations, China-EU relations and other issues of common concern.
The 6th CPIFA-ICWA Dialogue on China-India Relations Held in New Delhi

On November 7, the 6th CPIFA-ICWA Dialogue on China-India Relations, co-sponsored by the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) and the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), was held in New Delhi.

The Chinese delegation led by Amb. Yang Yanyi, Member of Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Former Chinese Ambassador to Brunei and European Union, included Amb. Ou Boqian, Vice President of CPIFA, Mr. Wang Chungui, former Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines and Malaysia, and experts and scholars from Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Commerce, and Zhejiang International Studies University. The Indian delegation led by Dr. Tirumallai C A Raghavan, ICWA Director General, included Mr. Shri Soumen Bagchi, ICWA Deputy Director General, Mr. Gautam Bambawale, former Indian Ambassador to China as well as other representatives from think tanks and universities.
Amb. Yang Yanyi, Dr. Tirumallai C A Raghavan and Mr. Sun Weidong, Chinese Ambassador to India, addressed the opening ceremony respectively. Delegates from both sides conducted in-depth discussions on “From Wuhan to Chennai: Looking Forward to the 70th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations”, “Global Economic Outlook: Perspectives from India and China”, “Significance of Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges”. H.E. Ms. Vijay Thakur Singh, Secretary (East) of Ministry of External Affairs of India, met the Chinese delegation in India.

The 4th China-Canada Track Two Dialogue
Held in Dujiangyan, Sichuan

From November 3 to 5, the 4th China-Canada Track Two Dialogue was co-hosted by CPIFA and the China Institute of University of Alberta at Dujiangyan City, Sichuan Province. The Chinese and Canadian delegations were headed respectively by Mr. Wang Chao, President of CPIFA and Mr. Gordon Houlden, Director of China Institute of University of Alberta. Both sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on China-Canadian relations and other issues of mutual interest.
On 7 November, President Wang Chao met with Mr. Demetris Syllouris, President of the Cyprus House of Representatives. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations and other issues of common interest. Vice President Li Huilai was also present.

The Fifth China-Latin America and the Caribbean Think Tanks Forum Held in Beijing

From October 28 to 29, the Fifth China-Latin America and the Caribbean Think Tanks Forum, co-sponsored by CPIFA, the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), and the China Foundation for International Studies (CFIS) was held in Beijing. Mr. Zheng Zeguang, Vice Minister of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of PRC, Mr. Wang Chao, President of CPIFA, and Mr. Frederick
Audley Mitchell, Bahamian Senator and Chairman of Progressive Liberal Party addressed the Opening Ceremony.

Under the theme of “Promoting High-quality Belt and Road Cooperation: Toward a Connectivity Partnership between China and Latin American and the Caribbean Countries”, around 160 people, including experts, scholars and other representative of various sectors from China and 28LAC countries and international organizations attended the forum. The participants conducted in-depth discussions on the topics of “Promoting High-Quality Belt and Road Cooperation: Concept, Practice and Significance”, “Toward a Connectivity Partnership between China and Latin American and the Caribbean Countries: Vision, Goal and Path”, “Joint Commitment to Innovation, Fostering New Growth Point in China-LAC Cooperation”, “Promoting Sustainable Development and Contributing to the Realization of UN’s 2030 SDGs”, and “Deepening Dialogues of China-LAC Civilizations, Strengthening People-to-People Ties”.

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Understanding China Guangzhou Conference Successfully Held

Understanding China Guangzhou Conference, co-hosted by the China Institute for Innovation & Development Strategy, the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), the People’s Government of Guangdong Province, the 21st Century Council, and organized by the People’s Government of Guangzhou Municipality, was successfully held from October 25 to 27 in Guangzhou. On Oct. 25, Chinese President Xi Jinping met with foreign representatives and took a photo with them in Beijing. On Oct. 26, Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the conference. Huang Kunming, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of CPC Central Committee, attended the opening ceremony, read out President Xi’s congratulatory letter and delivered opening remarks. Li Xi, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and the Secretary of CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee, made a keynote speech. Wang
Chao, President of the CPIFA, chaired a speech session and delivered closing remarks. Li Huilai, Vice President of CPIFA, attended the conference.

About 600 renowned guests from political, business and academic circles all over the world participated in the conference. Among them, there are about 30 well-known politicians, strategists, scholars, entrepreneurs from Europe, America, countries surrounding China and developing countries, including Ernesto Zedillo, former President of Mexico, Rosen Asenov Plevneliev, former President of Bulgaria, Ivo Josipovic, former President of Croatia, Valdis Zatlers, former President of Latvia, Yves Leterme, former Prime Minister of Belgium, George Papandreou, former Prime Minister of Greece, Mario Monti, former Prime Minister of Italy and Shaukat Aziz, former Prime Minister of Pakistan. Besides, some representatives from international organizations, transnational corporations, some foreign youngsters, foreign diplomats and some leading members from Chinese ministries, commissions and local governments also participated in the conference.

The theme of this year’s conference is “New Globalization and China’s New Round of Reform and Opening-Up”. Besides keynote speeches, there are also 8 parallel sessions around the themes of “World Economy and China’s Economic Outlook”, “‘Belt and Road Initiative’ and Industrial Cooperation”, “Building a Business Environment for Fair Competition”, “Bay Area Mayor’ Roundtable”, “Digital Economy and New Prospect for Global Cooperation”, “China’s Financial Opening-up and Global Financial Markets”, “Cultural Bay Area and Urban Quality”, “Modernization of National Governance System and Governance Capacity - Cultural Innovation and Building of International Communication Capabilities”. A seminar on US-China relations was also held.
during the conference. About 20 guests from home and abroad had a candid and in-depth exchange of views.

President Wang Chao Attends the 6th World Internet Conference

From October 20 to 21, President Wang Chao attended the 6th World Internet Conference held in Wuzhen, Zhejiang. He participated in the opening ceremony and plenary session of the conference, and delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation on Cyberspace.

Under the theme of “Embracing Openness and Cooperation for Shared Benefits”, the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation on Cyberspace is hosted by the National Development and Reform Commission and the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, and co-organized by the Internet Society of China. Liu Liehong, Vice Minister of the Cyberspace Administration...
of China, Ren Zhiwu, Deputy Secretary General of the National Development and Reform Commission, Feng Fei, Executive Vice Governor of Zhejiang province attended the opening ceremony and delivered speeches. About 200 guests including former Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and other representatives from governments, enterprises, civil organizations, research institutions and the media attended the forum.

President Wang Chao Met with Former Prime Minister of New Zealand

On October 16, Mr. Wang Chao, President of CPIFA, met with Sir. John Key, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and exchanged views with him on China-New Zealand relations and other issues of common interest. Amb. Zhao Weiping, Vice President of the CPIFA, was present.
在纪念中国人民外交学会成立70周年招待会上的致辞

杨洁篪  中共中央政治局委员、中央外事工作委员会办公室主任

很高兴和各位同事和朋友欢聚一堂，纪念中国人民外交学会成立70周年。

1949年中华人民共和国成立，开启了中国同世界关系的新纪元，也开启了新中国外交波澜壮阔的历史进程。新中国外交的一个鲜明属性就是人民性，人民外交成为新中国外交的重要组成部分。70年来，中国外交扎根人民，造福人民，始终牢记和践行外交为民的宗旨。人民外交为增进人民友谊、密切国家关系、推动务实合作、促进文明交流发挥了不可替代的重要作用，为国家总体外交作出了重要贡献。

中国人民外交学会成立于1949年12月，是由周恩来总理亲自倡导成立的新中国第一个人民外交机构。从成立之初，外交学会就担负着为新中国发展对外关系、促进与各国人民友好交往的神圣使命。改革开放后，特别是党的十八大以来，外交学会不忘初心和使命，积极发挥人民外交的独特作用，不断为服务国家改革发展稳定大局和配合总体外交担当新使命、展现新气象、实现新作为。

70年来，中国和世界的关系发生了历史性变化。中国的国际地位不断提升，国际影响力日益增强，对世界的贡献越来越大。习近平总书记指出，“中国的发展离不开世界，世界的繁荣也需要中国。”在各国的共同努力下，二战后的世界从动荡走向总体和平，经济全球化极大促进了经济社会发展和人类文明进步，国际社会确立了以联合国宪章宗旨和原则为基础的国际关系基本准则，建立了以联合国为核心的国际体系。和平与发展成为时代潮流，为中国的改革开放提供了良好的国际环境。中国在实现自身发展的同时，积极维护国际公平正义，倡导国际关系民主化，参与全球治理体系改革和建设，与各国一道共同推动构建人类命运共同体。
中国既坚持独立自主，也积极对外合作，广交朋友、深交朋友。新中国成立后，在国际社会的支持下，我们同各国相继建交并恢复了在联合国的合法席位。改革开放后，中国打开开放的大门，国外的资金、先进技术和管理经验进入中国，中国人民焕发出极大的建设热情，发展自己，造福世界。特别是在应对国际金融危机等重大全球性挑战面前，中国和各国同舟共济、共克时艰。70年来，各国人民对中国人民的友好情谊我们从未忘记。今天到场的嘉宾除了中方人士外，还有很多外国友人。借此机会，我谨对你们长期以来关心和支持中国发展表示衷心的感谢。

回顾历史是为了更好走向未来。当今世界正经历百年未有之大变局，新兴市场国家和发展中国家崛起势头不可阻挡，国际力量格局深刻调整。与此同时，一段时期以来，单边主义、保护主义、霸凌主义愈演愈烈，国际形势中不稳定、不确定因素突出。公道自在人心，各国人民支持多边主义、加强国际合作的呼声日益高涨，世界多极化和经济全球化的大势不可阻挡。

明年中国将实现全面建成小康社会，实现第一个百年奋斗目标。再过30年，到新中国成立一百年的时候，我们将建成一个富强民主文明和谐美丽的社会主义现代化强国，实现中华民族伟大复兴的中国梦。中国将始终不渝走和平发展道路，中国的发展必将为世界带来更多的机遇。

人民之间的友好交往是促进世界和平与发展的基础力量，是实现合作共赢的基本前提。世界的前途命运取决于各国人民，中国人民将永远与世界人民携手同行，共同创造更加光明美好的未来！
在中国人民外交学会成立70周年之际，很高兴和大家一起出席“新中国人民外交思想研讨会”。首先，我要祝外交学会70岁生日快乐！大家知道，外交学会与共和国同龄，是新中国第一个专门从事人民外交的机构，周恩来总理和陈毅副总理曾先后担任外交学会的名誉会长。

外交学会成立之初的主要使命是通过开展人民外交，打破西方国家封锁，开拓新中国外交工作的新局面。改革开放以后，随着我国各领域对外交往的蓬勃发展，外交学会更加广泛深入地开展人民外交活动，同世界知名政治活动家的交往更趋频繁，与主要大国和周边邻国的友好联系更为密切，和全球智库学者的往来显著增多，并常常在国家关系遇到障碍时发挥独特作用，助力官方外交。

党的十八大以来，外交学会以习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想和习近平外交思想为指南，进一步深化和扩大对外交往，主动讲好中国故事，积极宣介“一带一路”倡议，推动共建人类命运共同体，努力开创全方位的人民外交工作新格局。

70年来，外交学会紧密配合国家总体外交，充分发挥人民外交机动灵活、覆盖广泛的独特优势，广交深交朋友，为我国同世界各国建立和发展外交关系，加深中外人民理解与友谊、争取和平友善的国际环境、夯实国家关系的民意和社会基础做了大量有益的工作，取得可喜成绩。

外交学会是我国接待世界各国政要和社会各界精英最多的人民外交机构之一，可谓是朋友遍天下，学会同基辛格、布莱尔、施罗德、拉法兰、塞迪略、卡尔扎伊、鸠山由纪夫等一大批世界著名政治活动家保持着长期交往，同美国、德国、法国、日本、韩国、印度等国家建立了20多个二轨对话机制，参与主办或协办十多个大型
国际论坛会议,积极开展公共外交、多边人民外交和形势调研工作。

作为外交学会的名誉会长，我为学会工作取得的成绩倍感骄傲。这些年我有机会亲身参与学会的一些对外工作，见证了学会人民外交工作的不断拓展深化。除会见部分来访外国前政要、青年政治家等团组，我还参加了中法青年领导者论坛、中韩知名人士论坛、“一带一路”与澳门发展国际研讨会、三边委员会会议等双边多边会议。外交学会正是通过持之以恒地开展这些民间交往活动，加强沟通、增进理解、传播友谊、促进合作，为总体外交添砖加瓦。作为一名外交战线上的“老兵”，能够在人民外交的舞台上继续发挥作用，为增进中外理解互信贡献微薄之力，我感到非常高荣。

外交学会在过去70年里取得的成绩离不开党中央的坚强领导、几代学会人的辛勤努力以及社会各界的大力支持。回顾学会开展人民外交的历程，经验十分宝贵，值得认真总结，为未来提供借鉴。在当前世界大变局和中国新时代相互交织的大背景下，人民外交工作已进入崭新的历史阶段。面对新的机遇和挑战，外交学会应以成立70周年为新的起点，在习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想和习近平外交思想指引下，发扬传统，锐意进取，努力开创人民外交工作的新局面，为推进新时代中国特色大国外交，构建人类命运共同体贡献力量。

衷心祝愿外交学会越办越好，再创新的辉煌！
我代表外交部党委对中国人民外交学会成立70周年表示热烈祝贺!70年来，外交学会紧密配合国家总体外交，认真贯彻党的外交方针政策，秉持“为国交友”的宗旨，卓有成效地开展人民外交，为新中国拓展外交空间、增进中外理解互信、营造良好外部环境、提升国家形象发挥了重要作用。

人民外交工作是国家总体外交的重要组成部分。长期以来，外交学会围绕外交中心工作，广交深交朋友，与一大批国际著名政治活动家保持长期交往，并不断扩大和深化同世界各国政要、议会、智库、媒体、青年的交往，同时积极开展二轨对话、公共外交和形势调研。外交学会的对外工作具有形式活、渠道多、覆盖广等优势，在国家间交往出现困难时常常能发挥“奇兵”作用，成为官方外交的有益补充。

今年是新中国成立70周年，经过70年的艰苦努力，中华民族迎来了从站起来、富起来到强起来的伟大飞跃，广大外交外事工作者也参与和见证了国家发展与民族复兴的历史进程。党的十八大以来，以习近平同志为核心的党中央，立足我国发展新的历史方位，提出了“两个一百年”奋斗目标和中华民族伟大复兴的中国梦。习近平总书记深刻把握中国和世界发展大势，作出世界面临百年未有之大变局的重要论断，倡导推动构建人类命运共同体，共建“一带一路”，引领全球治理体系变革，对中国的和平发展以及世界的繁荣进步产生重大而深远的影响。在习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想和习近平外交思想指引下，我国外交工作攻坚克难、砥砺奋进，坚定维护国家主权、安全和发展利益，积极拓展全方位外交布局，贡献中国智慧和中国方案，加强同世界各国交流互鉴，开创了中国特色大国外交新局面。中国国际地位得到前所未有的提升，国

继往开来，谱写人民外交工作新篇章
——在新中国人民外交思想研讨会上的致辞

秦 刚 中国外交部副部长

我代表外交部党委对中国人民外交学会成立70周年表示热烈祝贺!70年来，外交学会紧密配合国家总体外交，认真贯彻党的外交方针政策，秉持“为国交友”的宗旨，卓有成效地开展人民外交，为新中国拓展外交空间、增进中外理解互信、营造良好外部环境、提升国家形象发挥了重要作用。

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际影响力、感召力和塑造力进一步提高。我们比历史上任何时候都更接近世界舞台的中心,接近实现中华民族伟大复兴的目标。

当前,世界正处于百年未有之大变局,中国同世界的关系也在发生历史性变化。一方面,世界多极化、经济全球化深入发展,新工业和科技革命方兴未艾,为各国发展带来新的机遇。另一方面,单边主义、保护主义、民粹主义愈演愈烈,不稳定不确定因素增加。我国发展正处于“两个一百年”奋斗目标的历史交汇期,这个阶段在中华民族伟大复兴的历史进程中意义十分重要。在国际国内大背景下,推进新时代中国特色大国外交既迎来重要历史机遇,也面临严峻风险挑战。外交工作线要深入学习贯彻落实习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想和习近平外交思想,全面把握我国发展的历史方位和世界发展大势,统筹好国内国外两个大局,努力推进中国特色大国外交,为维护并延长我国发展的战略机遇期,为实现“两个一百年”奋斗目标和中华民族伟大复兴营造更加有利的国际环境。

中国特色社会主义进入新时代,人民外交工作也掀开了新的篇章。作为新中国建立的第一个人民外交机构,外交学会要以建会70年为新起点,深入贯彻落实习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想和外交思想,增强“四个意识”,坚定“四个自信”,做到“两个维护”,加强战略谋划,积极担当作为,用人民外交助力新时代中国特色大国外交。

一是深入学习贯彻习近平外交思想,牢牢把握外交工作的正确方向。习近平外交思想明确了新时代我国外交工作的历史使命、根本目标和方针原则,是新中国70年外交理论与实践的结晶,是习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想的重要组成部分,是新时代我国外交工作的根本遵循和行动指南。我们要认真学习领会和深刻认识把握其科学体系、丰富内涵和精神要义,用以武装头脑、指导实践。

二是紧紧围绕党和国家外交大局,更好服务国家发展和民族复兴。明年,我国将全面建成小康社会、实现“第一个百年”奋斗目标,并将开启全面建设社会主义现代化国家新征程。2021年,我们将迎来中国共产党成立一百周年。作为外交工作的重要组成部分,人民外交工作要全面把握历史交汇期的阶段特征,准确研判国际形势和世界发展大势,密切配合总体外交,确保国家发展和民族复兴进程。

三是夯实新型国际关系的民意基础,营造有利外部环境。“国之交在于民相亲”,外交学会要继续坚持“为国交友”的宗旨,广交深交朋友、增进理解互信、推动务实合作。要配合总体外交,积极促进与美国、俄罗斯、欧盟等主要国家关系的全面均衡发展;做好周边外交工作,深化睦邻友好合作;巩固同发展中国家的友谊,夯实对外工作根基,讲好中国故事,提升国家形象;搭建合作平台,推进共建“一带一路”,参与全球治理,推动构建人类命运共同体。
四是强化底线思维, 提高斗争本领。我国发展仍处于并将长期处于重要战略机遇期, 同时, 我们面临的外部环境也更加复杂严峻, 必须保持清醒头脑, 增强忧患意识, 坚持底线思维, 防范化解重大风险挑战。人民外交工作要加强顶层设计、战略谋划和策略运筹, 提高驾驭复杂国际形势的能力和斗争本领, 不断增强工作的主动性、策略性和协调性。

五是加强组织保障, 打造高素质人民外交队伍。要坚持党对对外工作的集中统一领导, 按照习近平总书记对新时期外交队伍建设的总要求, 坚持以政治坚定、业务精湛、纪律严明、作风过硬为标准, 锻炼干部忠诚干净担当的政治品格, 全方位加强干部的理想信念、专业能力和综合素质, 适应新时代人民外交工作的要求。

在实现中华民族伟大复兴的历史进程中, 人民外交工作任重道远, 使命光荣。大家要更加紧密地团结在以习近平同志为核心的党中央周围, 在习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想和习近平外交思想指引下, 不忘初心, 牢记使命, 与时俱进, 开拓创新, 共同创造中国特色大国外交新辉煌, 为实现“两个一百年”奋斗目标、实现中华民族伟大复兴的中国梦作出新的更大贡献。
用人民外交助力新时代中国特色大国外交

王 超 中国人民外交学会会长

人民外交是中国共产党和新中国外交的一项创举，它以增进人民友谊、促进国家关系发展为宗旨，在长期实践中形成了中国独有的特色。中国人民外交学会是由周恩来总理兼外长亲自倡导成立并担任名誉会长的新中国第一个人民外交机构，成立于1949年12月15日，与人民共和国同龄。它以中国人民的名义，开创中国和世界外交的新篇，书写并见证了新中国人民外交70年光辉历程。

一、人民外交作为新中国外交的重要组成部分，70年来为拓展外交空间、增进中外相互了解、提升国家形象发挥了重要作用。

新中国成立之初，我国外交面临的迫切任务是争取更多国家和人民的理解和支持。毛泽东主席、周恩来总理等老一辈革命家制定了立足于人民、着眼于人民、寄希望于人民的外交方针。外交学会同其他人民团体一道，通过创造性地开展“民间先行、以民促官”的人民外交实践，打破外交封锁，加强人民之间的联系，促进中外互信，争取国际支持，大大拓展了新中国的外交空间。

二十世纪五六十年代，外交学会积极支持和声援第三世界国家的民族独立运动，在促进中国同许多第三世界国家建立和发展外交关系上发挥了重要作用。二十世纪六七十年代，根据国际形势发展变化，外交学会积极拓展与西方各国民间友好交往，为我国与西方主要大国建交做了大量牵线搭桥的工作。1952年至1968年，外交学会接待了百余个日本各界知名人士代表团，在推动中日邦交正常化中起了重要作用。1957年和1963年，外交学会两次邀请法国前总理富尔访华，与我国领导人商谈建交事宜，为1964年中法正式建交铺
平了道路。尼克松访华后，外交学会成为中美高层民间交往的主要渠道之一，先后接待了美国第一位到访中国的众议长、参议院多数党领袖、州长、大法官，为中美最终实现建交做了重要铺垫。正如陈毅副总理兼外长所指出的：“中国的人民外交，是通过政府外交和民间外交两种形式来实现的。这两种形式的密切结合和灵活运用，构成了我们人民外交的体系，成为我们对外工作的最大特色。”

改革开放后，我国各领域对外交往快速发展，人民外交跨入新的历史时期。作为国家总体外交的重要组成部分，人民外交为夯实国家关系发展的民意和社会基础，为我国发展争取和平稳定的国际环境，做了大量潜移默化的基础性和长远性工作。特别是党的十八大以来，在以习近平同志为核心的党中央领导下，中国特色大国外交全面推进，中国外交更加鲜明地展现出中国特色，为国内发展和世界和平做出新的重要贡献。在习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想和习近平外交思想指引下，外交学会秉承“为国交友”的理念，进一步扩大和深化同世界知名政治家、议会、智库、媒体等的交往，积极开展二轨对话和公共外交，在配合总体外交、增进理解互信、推动务实合作等方面发挥着人民外交的独特作用。

广交深交朋友，扩大“朋友圈”。外交学会是中国接待世界各国政府家和社会各界精英最多的人民外交机构，与一大批国际著名政治活动家保持着长期交往。随着国家开放的大门不断打开，外交学会一方面继续与老朋友保持密切联系，同时不断扩充朋友圈，结识美欧、新兴大国、周边和发展中国家的政要、议员、学者、知名人士等新朋友。着眼未来，外交学会近年来还积极同各国青年精英交朋友，与美国、德国、法国、奥地利等国定期合作举办“青年领导者论坛”，邀请波兰、韩国等国青年政治家代表团访华，并组织中国青年代表团远赴非洲交流。青年交流活动议题丰富，形式活泼，增进了双方的理解和友谊，也为人民外交工作注入新的活力。

开展对话交流，增进互信合作。外交学会通过建立二轨交流机制同外方开展对话沟通，增进理解互信，助推双边关系。外交学会与美国民主、共和两党人士就推动中美关系持续健康、稳定发展深度对话；与日本朝野人士就中日关系改善和发展坦诚交流；就“一带一路”建设与韩国、新加坡、马来西亚等周边国家以及中东欧和拉美国家真诚沟通；与韩国、法国等欧洲国家就增进中欧战略互信与务实合作深入研讨。

拓展公共外交，讲好中国故事。随着我国综合国力和国际影响力日益提升，国际社会越来越关注中国。外交学会依托双边和多边平台，主动讲述中国故事，宣介中国道路，为推动共建人类命运共同体做出积极努力。外交学会联合北京市于2015年、2017年成功举办“亚信非政府论坛”首次和第二次年会，积极宣传新安全
观和亚信共同理念；同国家创新与发展战略研究会等机构分别于2013年、2015年和2018年共同举办了三届“读懂中国”国际会议，促进了世界对中国道路的理解；与清华大学合作举办世界和平论坛，为各国有关人士探讨国际安全议题提供更多平台。其次，学会还支持和参与世界互联网大会、生态文明贵阳国际论坛、库布其国际沙漠论坛、太湖世界文化论坛等大型高端国际论坛，同阿塞拜疆尼扎米中心联合举办以“中国的发展，世界的机遇”为主题的巴库国际论坛北京高级别会议，为促进中外沟通、提升中国话语权和影响力做出贡献。此外，外交学会近年来加大邀请美大、欧洲、拉美、非洲等地区媒体团访华，让他们亲身感受中国的发展进步，并通过媒体窗口使更多外国民众了解到一个真实的中国。

配合外交大局，发挥独特作用。作为官方外交的有益补充，人民外交常常在国家间交往出现困难的时候发挥独特作用。二十世纪八十年代末，我国与西方国家关系陷入低谷，外交学会于1990年7月组织以时任上海市市长朱镕基为团长的中国市长代表团，访问了十几个美国大中城市，对恢复中美关系起到了积极的推动作用。2008年底，中法关系遭遇波折，外交学会于2009年春节组团访法参与中法建交45周年庆祝活动，并邀请法国前总理拉法兰率团访华，促进中法关系走出困境。近一时期中美关系呈现复杂局面之际，外交学会加大与美各界人士接触力度，就推动中美关系稳定发展深入交流。70年风雨兼程，人民外交始终不忘初心，砥砺前行。70年来，外交学会共接待外国政要、议会、智库、媒体等来访团组4000余批、3万余人次，与施密特、希思、基辛格、希拉克、科尔、施罗德、布莱尔、布朗、拉法兰、陆克文、阿齐兹、鸠山由纪夫、吴作栋、卡尔扎伊、塞迪略、奥巴马等著名政治人物保持长期交往，同美国、加拿大、法国、德国、日本、韩国、印度、新加坡、澳大利亚等国建立和保持了20多个双边对话交流机制。随着时代的发展，人民外交正日益成为稳定国家关系、传播人民友谊、促进务实合作、开展文明对话的重要渠道和宽广舞台，不断为服务国家改革发展稳定大局和总体外交全局担当新任务、展现新气象、实现新作为。

二、抚今追昔，鉴往知来。回顾外交学会开展人民外交的70年，成绩来之不易，经验弥足珍贵，值得认真总结。

一是官民并举，相辅相成。新中国成立初期，人民外交扮演着重要而独特的作用，它不仅是官方外交的补充，更是官方外交的先行者。它以人民利益为目标，党、国家和人民三方面对外交往相结合，为新中国外交开辟了道路。改革开
放以来，根据国家发展的需要，人民外交深入到政治、经济、文化等各领域，在广度深度上不断拓展，为总体外交提供坚实的基础。人民外交具有灵活多样、渠道多、覆盖广等优势，是具有中国特色的重要创举，和官方外交相互补充、相互促进，人民外交的作用会越来越重要。

二是人民外交，以心相交。70年来，无论人民外交的内涵外延如何拓展，初心始终未改。习近平主席说，“国之交在于民相亲，民相亲在于心相通”。这是对人民外交本质的最好诠释。人民外交说到底就是民心外交，即通过广交深交朋友，实现民心相通、民心相亲，促进互信，建立友谊，加强合作，为国家关系夯实民意基础，让世界更好地了解中国。

三是润物无声，厚积薄发。习近平主席指出，人民友好是促进世界和平与发展的基础力量。中国特色人民外交侧重做人的工作，需要默默耕耘，滴水穿石，持之以恒地做好基础和长期性的工作。民间友好的深厚力量能够跨越国界、跨越时空、跨越文明。面对国际风云变幻，越是国家关系遇到困难的时候，人民外交越能发挥稳定器和解压阀的作用，推动政府间关系的改善和发展，促进共同繁荣，维护世界和平。人民外交可以更直接、更广泛地面对外国主流社会人士和外国公众，更有效地展示我国的政治、经济影响力和文化吸引力，改善国际舆论环境。

四是与时俱进，开拓进取。在不同的历史时期，人民外交既始终坚守为国交友的初心和使命，又能够根据国家需要，密切配合总体外交，适应形势发展，创新工作内容、领域与方式，为新中国开拓外交阵地争取国际支持，为促进中外交流营造良好的国际环境，为传播中国声音、推动构建人类命运共同体做出重要贡献。随着新时代中国特色大国外交全面推进，面对新形势、新任务、新要求，人民外交必须坚持与时俱进，不断开拓创新，紧跟时代步伐，使人民外交始终充满生机和活力。

三、面对世界百年未有之大变局，人民外交正踏上新的征程，高举人类命运共同体旗帜，开拓创新、积极进取，开启新时代中国人民外交的新篇章。

一是配合总体外交，夯实新型国际关系民意基础。人民外交着眼于人民。随着外交的参与主体日益广泛，14亿中国人民正成为人民外交的坚强后盾。外国政要、智库、学者、媒体、青年创业者等都是人民外交的交往对象。要发挥人民外交灵活机动、形式多样、渠道多元、覆盖广泛的优势和特点，更加充分地增进相互交流和理解，更加深入地沟通思想、传递友谊、加深互信，做“润物细无声”的战略性、基础性、长远性工作，做国家关系的“润滑剂”、人民友谊的“播种机”。
二是牢记使命责任，坚定不移维护国家利益。维护国家主权、安全和发展利益，是对外工作的出发点和落脚点。中国坚持走和平发展道路，也坚定维护国家和人民的利益。人民外交要始终站稳立场，发挥独特优势和资源，坚决捍卫国家利益，不断丰富和发展维护国家利益的方式和手段，敢于同一切损害国家利益的行为做斗争，为我国发展营造良好的外部条件。

三是讲好中国故事，创新方式塑造国家形象。博大精深的中华传统文化、艰苦奋斗的革命和建设历史、锐意进取的改革开放历程，既是理解新中国从苦难走向辉煌、从胜利走向胜利的历史逻辑，更是中国对外交往取之不尽、用之不竭的宝贵财富。在新的时代条件下，人民外交要积极开展对外交流，用真实生动的故事，用外国朋友听得懂的语言，把中国的声音传开，让世界了解真实、立体、全面的中国，充分体现中国特色、中国风格、中国气派，展现负责任大国的国家形象。

四是主动搭建平台，积极有为推进对外合作。当前，中国与外部世界的利益交融不断扩大，融入国际体系的程度不断加深，中国的前途命运日益紧密地同世界的前途命运联系在一起。习近平主席多次庄重宣示，中国开放的大门只会越开越大。中国奉行互利共赢的开放战略，倡导多边合作、反对贸易保护主义，推动共建“一带一路”，既是中国自身扩大和深化对外开放的需要，更是世界大多数国家的共同心声。在此背景下，人民外交要紧紧围绕服务国家发展这个大局，增进交流、搭建平台、架设桥梁，更好地服务改革开放和高质量发展，促进中国同各国的互利合作。

五是参与全球治理，推动构建人类命运共同体。中国是世界第二大经济体，同时也是世界最大的发展中国家。人民外交要积极参与多边领域活动，共同探讨应对全球性挑战，深入阐述中国主张和中国方案，把中国的和平稳定同世界的和平稳定结合起来，把中国的发展繁荣同世界各国的共同利益结合起来，把中国梦同各国人民对美好生活的共同向往结合起来，充分展现中国对人类命运共同体的认识、思考和担当。

人民外交是中国特色大国外交的生动实践，是国家总体外交不可替代的重要组成部分。世界有多大，人民外交的舞台就有多大。习近平主席强调，中国共产党是为中国人民谋幸福的政党，也是为人类进步事业而奋斗的政党，中国共产党始终把为人类做出新的更大的贡献作为自己的使命。70年来，中国人民外交学会秉持“为国交友，谊满天下”的情怀，持之以恒开展人民外交，结出了累累硕果。展望未来，中国人民外交将在习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想和习近平外交思想的指引下，以更加昂扬的姿态，阔步走向新辉煌，为实现“两个一百年”奋斗目标、实现中华民族伟大复兴的中国梦而不懈奋斗。
2019年是中华人民共和国成立70周年。70年前，中国人民经过艰苦斗争，彻底终结了中华民族自鸦片战争以来的百年屈辱历史，开始以崭新姿态自立于世界东方。70年来，新中国外交高举独立、自主、和平、合作的旗帜，助力中华民族从站起来、富起来到强起来的伟大复兴进程，为世界和平与发展的伟大事业作出历史性贡献。

一、新中国外交70年的主要成就

（一）有力维护了中国的主权和安全利益

新中国成立初期，为打破外部孤立与封锁，中国政府制定了“另起炉灶”“打扫干净屋子再请客”“一边倒”三大外交方针，以崭新面貌开展外交活动。从那时起，中国外交始终坚持奉行以和平为宗旨、独立自主的外交政策，坚定捍卫国家独立与主权，使新中国在风云激荡的国际环境中站稳了脚跟、打开了局面。

中国外交将实现祖国完全统一作为自身的使命和责任，积极贯彻“一国两制”构想，使香港和澳门顺利实现回归。中国外交坚决反对外部势力干涉中国内部事务，损害中国主权安全，反对“台独”分裂活动，遏制外部势力干预港澳事务，扎实开展涉藏、涉疆外交，加强打击“三股势力”国际合作，旗帜鲜明反对人权问题政治化，全力捍卫领土主权、国家安全和民族尊严。

中国外交致力于通过谈判、协商方式，处理与周边国家领土和海洋权益争端。已通过谈判完成90%的陆地划界和勘界，同14个陆地邻国中的12个划定和勘定边界，有力维护国家领土主权。我任驻阿富汗大使时，阿富汗朋友对我讲，中国是大国，阿富汗是小国，
但中国在两国边界谈判时对阿富汗平等相待，公平、友好地处理边界事务，让阿富汗人民感受到兄弟般的情谊和中国的大国风范。中国同有关国家签署并有效落实《南海各方行为宣言》，启动并推进“南海行为准则”磋商，坚决捍卫国家海洋权益，维护地区海上局势稳定。

（二）巩固并发展了同世界各国的关系

70年来，中国的建交国数已由新中国成立初期的18个增加到180个，建立了111对不同形式的伙伴关系，走出了一条“对话而不对抗、结伴而不结盟”的国与国交往新路，形成朋友遍天下的可喜局面。

苏联在新中国成立后的第二天即承认并同中国建立外交关系。苏联解体后，中苏关系平稳过渡到中俄关系。中俄关系历经国际风云变幻，已成为当今世界大国、邻国和睦相处、合作共赢的典范。在建交70周年之际，习近平主席对俄进行国事访问，宣布发展中俄新时代全面战略协作伙伴关系，两国关系迈向新征程。

中美关系是世界上最重要的双边关系之一。上世纪70年代，毛泽东主席邀请美国乒乓球队访华，以民间交往拉开两国官方关系的序幕。周恩来总理在接见美国代表团时表示，“你们这次应邀来华访问，打开了两国人民友好来往的大门”。“乒乓外交”创造了“小球转动大球”的历史佳话。建交以来，两国关系在风雨中不断前行。当前中美关系复杂性上升，关键是要本着相互尊重、平等相待的态度通过对话磋商解决问题，共同推进以协调、合作、稳定为基调的中美关系，保持中美关系总体稳定。

中欧关系发展为新中国打开外交局面和现代化建设发挥了独特作用。1964年中国法建交，这是中国与西方大国第一次建立大使级外交关系。此后，伴随欧洲一体化的推进，中欧关系不断深化拓展，朝着打造和平、增长、改革、文明四大伙伴关系方向前进。双方在维护多边主义、完善全球治理等方面共识增多，形成了全方位、多层次、宽领域交流合作的良好局面。

70年来，中国始终高度重视周边外交工作，坚持与邻为善、以邻为伴，坚持睦邻、安邻、富邻方针，践行亲诚惠容周边外交理念，同周边国家政治互信不断深化，务实合作成果丰富，区域一体化进程走深走实，利益共同体和命运共同体建设持续推进。

70年来，中国始终把加强同发展中国家团结合作作为对外政策基本立足点，支持广大发展中国家争取和维护民族独立，支持发展中国家平等参与国际事务。中国秉持真实亲诚理念和正确义利观，同非洲国家推动构建更加紧密的中非命运共同体，同阿拉伯国家建立全面合作、共同发展、面向未来的战略伙伴关系，同
拉美国家深化平等互利、共同发展的全面合作伙伴关系，推动打造金砖国家南南合作新平台，实现了同发展中国家整体合作机制全覆盖。

（三）积极参与引领全球治理

中国是国际秩序的维护者。中国是第一个在联合国宪章上签字的国家。上世纪50年代，周恩来总理率中国代表团出席日内瓦会议和万隆会议，发挥建设性作用，新中国从此登上世界舞台。参与过这段工作的一位老外交官回忆说，“周总理在日内瓦会议期间一切事情亲自决策，同各国代表广泛接触、耐心交谈，每天忙到凌晨三四点，为新中国外交赢得了赞誉与尊严，树立了新中国坚持独立自主、公平正义的负责任形象”。1971年中国恢复联合国合法席位后，开始全面参与联合国各领域活动，加入了几乎所有政府间国际组织和500多项国际公约。进入新时代，中国坚定维护多边主义，支持联合国在国际事务中发挥积极作用。中国已成为联合国第二大会议国和维和摊款国，也是派出维和人员最多的安理会常任理事国。

和平赤字、发展赤字、治理赤字是摆在全人类面前的共同挑战，各国人民完善全球治理的呼声越来越高。中国通过主办一系列主场外交，出席二十国集团领导人峰会、达沃斯世界经济论坛、APEC领导人非正式会议等多边会议，推动众多中国方案和中国倡议转化为国际共识和全球行动，积极参与全球治理体系改革和建设。我们全面参与全球气候变化、反恐、核安全、网络安全等多边治理进程和国际合作，积极推动国际金融机构改革，发起成立上海合作组织、金砖国家、亚投行等以发展中国家为主体的国际组织和合作机制，更多中国籍人士出任国际组织负责人。中国正在成为完善全球治理最为活跃的动力。
面对百年未有之大变局，面对当前治理难题和发展困境，习近平主席提出推动构建人类命运共同体的重要理念，倡导建设持久和平、普遍安全、共同繁荣、开放包容和清洁美丽的世界，并创造性提出了“亚太命运共同体”“中国—东盟命运共同体”“中非命运共同体”“中拉命运共同体”等具体理念。人类命运共同体理念揭示了世界各国相互依存和人类命运紧密相联的客观规律，契合各国人民孜孜以求的共同梦想，已被多次写入联合国等国际和地区组织文件。中国赋予多边主义新的时代内涵，即：国际上的事应该由大家商量着办，不能由一国或少数几个国家说了算。这一主张得到国际社会高度评价。

（四）推进合作共赢的开放体系建设

中国是全球发展的贡献者。经过70年发展，中国已成为世界第二大经济体，对世界经济增长的贡献率达30%以上，是130多个国家的最大贸易伙伴。改革开放以来，中国以前所未有的速度、广度和深度走向世界。中国已加入世界银行、国际货币基金组织、世界贸易组织等几乎所有重要国际和区域经济组织。中国与25个国家和地区签署17个自贸协定，区域全面经济伙伴关系协定15个成员国已经整体上结束谈判，立足周边、辐射“一带一路”、面向全球的高标准自贸区网络正在加速构建。

中国是经济全球化的积极参与者和坚定支持者。“搞保护主义如同把自己关进黑屋子，看似躲过了风吹雨打，但也隔绝了阳光和空气”。中国坚定支持经济全球化、推动构建开放型世界经济，为处在十字路口的全球化进程指明了方向。我们以实际行动维护以世界贸易组织为核心、以规则为基础的多边贸易体制，维护世贸组织的核心价值和基本原则，促进经济全球化和贸易投资自由化便利化，推动建设开放型世界经济。

中国为全球减贫与发展事业做出巨大贡献。改革开放以来，中国近8亿人摆脱贫困，对全球减贫贡献率超七成。2020年中国将全面打赢脱贫攻坚战，在5000年文明史上第一次消除绝对贫困。中国已累计向近170个国家和国际组织提供了4000多亿元人民币援助，派遣60多万援助人员，积极落实联合国千年发展目标和2030年可持续发展议程，受到国际社会的肯定。

自2013年中国提出共建“一带一路”倡议以来，一大批互联互通项目落地，国际合作架构基本成型。共商共建共享的理念得到广泛认同，亚投行、丝路基金等金融支持不断加强。截至2019年10月底，中国已同137个国家和30个国际组织签署197份合作文件，中欧班列累计开行数量已近2万列，已成功举办两届“一带一路”国际合作高峰论坛。“一带一路”已成为当前最大规模的国际合作平台和
最受欢迎的国际公共产品，不仅促进了有关国家和地区的经济增长和民生改善，甚至改变了很多普通人的命运。中国红十字基金会在阿富汗救助上百位患先天性心脏病的儿童，在新疆乌鲁木齐的手术成功率100%，让上百个家庭重获生活的希望。当地人流着泪说：“中国朋友像对待自己的孩子一样照顾我们的孩子，我们永远不会忘记这份恩情！”

（五）积极服务国内发展
70年来，中国外交一直将服务中国经济社会发展作为重要使命。我们支持地方和企业“走出去”，构建主场外交、共建“一带一路”、外交部省区市全球推介活动等平台，全力服务国内高质量发展和地方扩大开放。大力开展反腐败国际追逃追赃，迄已协助追回“百名红通人员”60人。

中国外交坚持以人民为中心、坚持外交为民，坚决维护中国公民和机构海外安全与合法权益。我们成功组织了也门撤侨等10多次紧急撤离海外公民行动，累计处理领保案件超过50万起，涉及近百万中国公民。2018年9月，日本遭遇强台风，中国驻大阪总领馆协助撤离来自两岸三地的上千名滞留中国旅客，展现了“祖国在你身后”大国外交的担当与作为。中国外交部建立了海外安全提醒发布机制，开通“12308”热线，“中国领事服务网”、“领事直通车”微信公众号、“领事之声”微博相继开通或上线。同146个国家缔结涵盖不同种类护照的互免签证协定，持普通护照的中国公民免签或落地签目的地已达70个。

（六）推动外交理论体系创新发展
70年来，新中国几代领导人、外交人员和专家学者，一直坚定不移履行将外交学中国化的历史任务，推进中国外交理论不断创新发展。从三大外交方针到和平共处五项原则，从“三个世界”理论到积极推动世界多极化和国际关系民主化、推动建设和谐世界，新中国外交立足现实需要和时代特点，探索形成了具有鲜明特色的中国外交理论体系，为国际关系理论的创新发展作出重要贡献。

2018年6月，中央外事工作会议确立了习近平外交思想的指导地位。习近平外交思想以“十个坚持”为核心要义，明确了新时代中国对外工作的历史使命、总目标和必须坚持的方针原则，深刻揭示了新时代中国特色大国外交的本质要求、内在规律和前进方向。习近平外交思想是习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想的重要组成部分，是以习近平同志为核心的党中央治国理政思想在外交领域的集中体现，是新时代中国对外工作的根本遵循和行动指南。

2019年10月，中国共产党十九届四中全会对坚持和完善中国特色社会主义制
度、推进国家治理体系和治理能力现代化作出全面部署、提出明确要求。对外交工作作出重要深刻阐述，提出要加强中国特色大国外交理论建设，深入推进涉外体制机制建设，要实现外交外事领域治理体系和治理能力的现代化。全会对外交工作为党和国家事业营造和平国际环境和良好外部条件进一步指明了方向。

二、新中国外交70年的宝贵经验

在70年的光辉历程中，中国外交形成了优良传统，积累了宝贵经验，这是新时代中国特色大国外交事业发展的宝贵精神财富。

始终坚持独立自主的和平外交政策。独立自主是中国外交最鲜明的属性。历史上没有一个民族、没有一个国家可以通过依赖外部力量、跟在他人后面亦步亦趋实现强大和振兴。中国始终坚持按事情本身的是非曲直决定自己的立场和政策，坚持通过对话政治解决各种争端，坚持通过维护世界和平发展自己，又以自己的发展来促进世界和平，推动各国共同走和平发展道路，永远做维护世界和平的正能量。

始终坚持维护国际公平正义。公平正义是世界各国人民的追求目标，也是中国外交永远不变的责任。中国倡导并践行和平共处五项原则基础，反对一切形式的霸权主义和强权政治。始终坚持在政治上主持公道、伸张正义，经济上互利共赢、共同发展，国际事务中讲信义、重情义、扬正义、树道义。无论何时，中国都将站在历史正确方向一边，站在国际公平正义一边，站在广大发展中国家一边。

始终坚持互利共赢的开放战略。互利共赢是中国和平发展的内在要求，也是中国外交永远不变的追求。你输我赢不是中国的目标，唯我独尊更不是中国的风格。改革开放以来，中国始终坚持对外开放的基本国策，奉行互利共赢的开放战略，坚持打开国门搞建设，充分运用经济全球化和区域合作的有利条件，努力实现中国发展与世界共同发展相互促进、协调统一，致力于推动合作共赢和开放体系建设。

始终坚持捍卫国家核心和重大利益。坚守国家利益是中国外交永远不变的出发点和落脚点。中国外交以维护中华民族整体和长远利益为己任，高度珍视中国人民经过长期奋斗得来的独立自主，始终坚持中国人民自主选择的社会制度和发展道路，坚定捍卫国家利益和民族尊严，从不拿原则问题谈条件，从不拿核心利益做交换，彰显了中华民族的气节和风骨，获得国际社会的理解和尊重。

始终坚持外交服务国内发展。服务发展是中国外交永远不变的重要使命。中
国是世界上最大的发展中国家，发展是第一要务。中国外交以国家经济社会发展为已任，加强与世界友好交往，深化与各国互利合作，在服务国内发展方面出台众多新思路新举措，为中国全面深化改革开放、实现经济高质量发展、推动国家治理体系和治理能力现代化，提供“他山石”、架起友谊桥、注入新动力。

始终坚持以人民为中心的理念。外交为民是中国外交永远不变的宗旨。新中国外交是人民的外交，只有扎根人民、造福人民，才能立于不败之地。中国外交始终把人民放在最高位置，坚持以人民为中心的理念，把人民群众的获得感、安全感和满意度作为衡量外交工作得失的重要标尺，坚决把发展成果由人民共享落到实处，也因此得到广大人民群众的认可和支持。
人民外交光辉70年
——在“新中国人民外交思想研讨会”上的发言

王 超  中国人民外交学会会长

感谢大家在百忙之中拨冗出席为纪念中国人民外交学会成立70周年而举办的“新中国人民外交思想研讨会”。

中国人民外交学会成立于1949年12月15日，是由周恩来总理亲自倡导成立的新中国第一个人民外交机构。七十年来，外交学会始终不忘初心，砥砺前行，为拓展国家外交空间，增进中外理解互信，营造友善国际环境发挥了重要作用。

在新中国成立之初，我国外交面临的迫切任务是争取更多国家和人民的理解和支持。毛泽东主席、周恩来总理等老一辈革命家制定了立足于人民、着眼人民、寄希望人民的外交方针。外交学会同其他人民团体一道，通过创造性地开展“民间先行、以民促官”的人民外交实践，打破外交封锁，争取国际支持，拓展了新中国的外交空间。上世纪五六十年代，外交学会积极支持和声援第三世界的民族独立运动，在促进中国同许多第三世界国家建立和发展外交关系上发挥了重要作用。上世纪六七十年代，根据国际形势发展变化，外交学会积极拓展与西方国家民间友好交往，为我国与西方主要大国建立做了大量牵线搭桥的工作。改革开放后，我国各领域对外交往全面快速发展，人民外交进入新的历史时期。作为国家总体外交的重要组成部分，人民外交为夯实国家关系发展的民意基础，为我国发展争取和平稳定的国际环境，做了大量卓有成效的工作。

党的十八大以来，在以习近平同志为核心的党中央领导下，中国特色大国外交全面推进。在习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想
和习近平外交思想指引下，外交学会秉承“为国交友”的理念，进一步扩大同世界知名政治家、议会党团、智库、媒体等的交往，助推双边关系；通过二轨交流机制同外方开展对话，增进理解互信；依托双多边平台，讲述中国故事，宣介中国道路，为推动构建人类命运共同体积极努力。

70年来，外交学会共接待外国政要、议会、智库、媒体等来访团组4000余批、3万余人次，与近百位世界政治活动家保持长期交往，同美国、加拿大、法国、德国、日本、韩国、印度、新加坡、澳大利亚等国建立和保持了20多个双边对话交流机制，参与主办或协办“读懂中国”国际会议、亚信非政府论坛、世界和平论坛等多个大型论坛会议。人民外交正日益成为稳定国家关系、传播人民友谊、促进务实合作、开展文明对话的重要渠道和宽广舞台，为服务国家改革发展稳定大局和总体外交全局担当新任务、展现新气象、实现新作为。

二

人民外交具有非官方和民间外交的属性，以增进人民友谊、促进国家关系发展为宗旨，是我国外交理论和实践不断探索、大胆创新的重要成果。回顾外交学会开展人民外交工作的70年，成绩来之不易，经验弥足珍贵。

第一，坚持党的领导。人民外交工作是中国共产党和新中国外交的一项创举。党的集中统一领导是中国外交攻坚克难、坚定前行的根本政治保障，更是人民外交的生命线。正是因为坚持党的领导，人民外交才能站稳立场，把握方向，广泛开展同世界各国人民之间的友好交往。

第二，官民并举，相辅相成。人民外交具有灵活性、广泛性、稳定性等优势，和官方外交互为补充、相互促进。建国初期，人民外交不仅是官方外交的补充，更是官方外交的先行者。改革开放以来，根据国家发展的需要，人民外交深入到政治、经济、文化等各领域，在广度深度上不断拓展，为总体外交提供坚实的基础。

第三，人民外交，以心相交。“国之交在于民相亲，民相亲在于心相通”，人民外交说到底就是民心外交，即通过广交深交朋友，实现民心相通、民相亲，为国家关系夯实民意基础。

第四，润物无声，厚积薄发。习近平主席指出，人民友好是促进世界和平与发展的基础力量。中国特色人民外交侧重做人的工作，默默耕耘，持之以恒地从事基础性和长期性的工作。民间友好的深厚力量能够跨越国界、跨越时空、跨越文明，越是国家关系遇到困难的时候，人民外交越能发挥稳定器和解压阀的
作用。

第五，与时俱进，开拓进取。在不同的历史时期，人民外交既坚守为国交友的初心和使命，又能够根据国家需要，密切配合总体外交，适应形势发展，创新工作内容、领域与方式，发挥着重要而独特的作用。

三

站在新的历史起点上，面对世界百年未有之大变局，人民外交正踏上新征程。随着新时代中国特色大国外交全面推进，面对新形势、新任务、新要求，人民外交要继续守正创新，担当有为。

一是始终坚持党的集中统一领导。人民外交是党对外工作格局中一个重要方面。身处服务“两个一百年”奋斗目标和中华民族伟大复兴进程的新起点，面对百年未有之世界大变局，机遇前所未有，挑战也前所未有。人民外交必须坚持以习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想和习近平外交思想为指引，增强“四个意识”，坚定“四个自信”，做到“两个维护”，全面贯彻落实党中央的大政方针，为中国特色大国外交的理论建设、机制建设和能力建设添砖加瓦。

二是夯实新型国际关系民意基础。人民外交着眼于人民。要发挥人民外交灵活机动、形式多样、渠道多元、覆盖广泛的优势和特点，更加充分地增进交流、加深互信，更加深入地沟通思想、传递友谊，做国家关系的“润滑剂”、人民友谊的“播种机”，让新型国际关系更接地气、更得世界人心。

三是坚定不移维护国家利益。坚持以人民为中心、国家利益至上，是对外工作包括人民外交的出发点和落脚点。人民外交要坚持从中国人民根本利益出发，发挥独特优势和资源，坚决捍卫国家利益，为我国发展营造良好的外部条件。

四是创新方式塑造国家形象。在新的时代条件下，人民外交要积极开展对外交流，用真实生动的故事，用外国朋友听得懂的语言，让世界读懂博大精深的中华传统文化、艰苦奋斗的革命建设历史、锐意进取的改革开放历程，了解真实、立体、全面的中国。

五是积极有为推进对外合作。随着中国融入国际体系的程度不断加深，与外部世界的利益交融不断扩大，中国和世界的前途命运日益紧密地联系在一起。中国奉行互利共赢的开放战略，倡导多边合作，推动共建“一带一路”。人民外交要紧紧围绕国家发展大局，更好地服务改革开放，促进中国同各国的互利合作。

六是推动构建人类命运共同体。随着中国日益走近世界舞台中央，人民外交要积极参与多边领域，共同探讨应对全球性挑战，深入阐述中国主张和中国方案，
把中国梦同各国人民对美好生活的共同向往结合起来，推动人类朝着建设命运共同体的方向不断前进。

世界有多大，人民外交的舞台就有多大。人民外交是中国特色大国外交的生动实践，是国家总体外交不可替代的重要组成部分。70年来，中国人民外交学会秉持“为国交友，谊满天下”的情怀，持之以恒开展人民外交。展望未来，人民外交将在习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想和习近平外交思想的指引下，坚守初心，勇担使命，在中国和各国人民之间架起更加坚实的民心之桥，为实现“两个一百年”奋斗目标、实现中华民族伟大复兴的中国梦、实现持久和平共同繁荣的世界梦而不懈奋斗。
首先，我代表中国人民对外友好协会，向中国人民外交学会建会70周年表示热烈的祝贺！向外交学会的全体同仁们致以崇高的敬意！

在建会70周年这一重要时刻，中国人民外交学会举行“新中国人民外交思想”研讨会，以人民外交或者我们称之为民间外交为主题，回望过往历史，总结当前经验，展望未来发展机遇与挑战，对于我们认真学习贯彻习近平外交思想，进一步夯实中外友好的社会和民意基础，具有十分重要的现实意义。新中国成立以来，中国人民外交学会积极开展人民外交，中国人民对外友好协会努力从事民间外交，二者像双星闪耀一样共同为促进中外人民的相互了解与友谊发光发热。作为民间外交战线的一名老兵，我愿借此机会谈谈我的一些体会和思考。

民间外交是中国共产党群众路线方针和统一战线理论在外交领域的理论创造和实践创新，是新中国总体外交工作的重要组成部分，体现了中国共产党“以人民为中心”的核心要义。

早在延安时期，毛泽东同志、周恩来同志等老一辈无产阶级革命家就亲自策划、指挥、参与民间外交活动，结交了斯诺、史沫特来、斯特朗、路易·艾黎等许多同情、支持、宣传我党革命事业的国际友人。

新中国成立后第二天，即1949年10月2日，以郭沫若同志为会长的中国人民保卫世界和平大会委员会（简称“和大”）宣告成立，一大批优秀外交人才汇聚“和大”，开展了卓有成效的民间外交工作。之后，按照中央统筹和指示，中国人民外交学会、中国人民对外文化协会等民间外交机构相继成立，按照“民间先行，以民促官”的方针，广泛开展民间外交工作，为新中国赢得国际认同与人
改革开放以后，新中国与世界上绝大多数国家都已建立了外交关系，但民间外交不但没有被削弱，反而得到了进一步加强。大量民间外交机构如雨后春笋般涌现出来，形成了百花齐放、百舸争流的良好局面。各种形式多样、内容丰富、成果务实的民间外交活动增进了国际社会对中国的了解和友谊，也帮助中国人民更好地认识世界、向世界学习。

当前，中国特色社会主义进入了新时代。民间外交工作取得的成绩获得了党和国家领导人的高度重视和积极评价。2012年，时任国家副主席的习近平同志在会见我会全国理事会全体成员时，掷地有声地强调：民间外交只能加强，不能削弱！2014年，习近平主席在中国国际友好大会暨中国人民对外友好协会成立60周年纪念活动上发表重要讲话，充分肯定了民间外交在国家总体外交中的重要地位，希望全国对外友协作为民间外交的重要组织力量，为加深人民友谊深耕细作、为促进国家关系铺路架桥、为推动国际合作穿针引线。

我从1975年大学毕业跨进中国人民对外友好协会的大门，迄今从事民间外交工作已45年。在这漫长的岁月里，我真切体会到只有紧密围绕国家总体外交大局，民间外交才能具有持久的生命力。习近平主席指出，我们的事业越是向纵深发展，就越要不断增强辩证思维能力。在新时代，我们必须坚持辩证唯物主义的世界观和方法论，分析矛盾、解决矛盾，才能使民间外交工作百尺竿头、更进一步。我认为以习近平外交思想为指导，新时代民间外交工作应着力研究处理好以下几对关系：

一、统与放的关系

党对对民间外交工作的绝对领导是新中国外交70年取得辉煌成就的关键之所在。在民间外交工作中坚持党的绝对领导，不断增强“四个意识”，坚持“四个自信”，做到“两个维护”，是新时代做好民间外交工作的根本政治保证。党的十九届四中全会作出的决定中指出：深入推进涉外体制机制建设，统筹协调党政军、人大、政府、政协等部门的对外交往，加强统筹协调，发挥群团组织和群众性团体的作用，有针对地开展对外友好交往。与此同时，也应充分考虑民间外交的多样性和灵活性。

二、义与利的关系

构建人类命运共同体是习近平外交思想的核心，是新时代中国特色大国外交的奋斗目标。习近平主席多次强调，中华民族历来主张“君子义以为质”，“不义而富且贵，于我如浮云”。风物长宜放眼量，义利之间其实是相互转化的，一国帮助他国，既有利于他国增强自生能力，更有利于自身实现持久繁荣。当
前，我们在开展民间外交工作一定要重情重义。互利只是友谊开始的基础，情义才是友谊长存的纽带，我国古人早已明言：以利相交，利尽则散；以势相交，势败则倾。好朋友、真朋友不是靠几次推杯换盏可以换来的，而是经过十几年甚至几十年风风雨雨的时间沉淀，彼此之间相扶相依共同走过来的自然结果。习主席讲“义利兼顾”、“以义为先”，必要时甚至要“舍利取义”，对我们做好新时代民间外交工作具有十分重要的指导意义。

三、上与下的关系

民间外交的根本属性是人民性，这就要求民间外交工作必须要接地气、懂民情、连民意、惠民生。过去一段时间，外宾来访时往往上面的城市去得多，下面的农村跑得少；上面的领导见得多，下面的群众谈得少；上面的会议参加得多，下面的走访安排得少。上述作法不利于我们讲述中国故事、传播中国经验。近年来，全国对外友协做了一些有益的创新，除安排一些必要的领导会见外，更多地安排外宾下基层，走入科技园区、城乡村镇、工厂社区、企业高校，亲眼去看我们政策的落地效果，亲耳去听我们群众的所思所感，亲身去感受我们党员干部为民服务的真诚奉献，然后让他们自己去判断和体会中国制度、中国理论、中国道路正确与否、何为伟大。我们发现，这种启发式、体验式、互动式的下基层活动，远比在会议室里听干巴巴的口头介绍要有效、有趣、有意义得多。对外工作更应注重不忘老朋友，广交新朋友。

四、斗与和的关系

习近平主席指出，当今世界正处于百年未有之大变局，我们党领导的伟大斗争、伟大工程、伟大事业、伟大梦想正在如火如荼进行，改革发展稳定任务艰巨繁重，我们面临着难得的历史机遇，也面临着一系列重大风险考验。胜利实现我们党确定的目标任务，必须发扬斗争精神，增强斗争本领。

从当前国际关系发展走向分析，在未来的民间外交工作中，我们面临的挑战只会更加复杂、更加严峻。我们也深刻体会到在敢于斗争的同时，我们更要善于斗争，按照习主席的要求，注重策略方法，讲求斗争艺术。斗争绝不是简单的你输我赢、你死我活。斗争的最高艺术是团结最广大的朋友，孤立最少数的敌人。在涉及我核心利益和重大原则问题上，民间外交工作必须敢于亮剑，坚决斗争。在一般性问题上，我们也要坚持求同存异，注意方式方法。说好话的国际友人一定是好朋友。持不同政见，敢于直言的人是我们工作的重点。化敌为友才真正考验我们的执政能力以及民间外交的魅力所在。

习近平主席指出，中国必须有自己特色的大国外交，我们要在总结实践经验的基础上，丰富和发展对外工作理念，使我国对外工作有鲜明的中国特色、中
国风格、中国气派。在新中国70年伟大奋斗中孕育而生的民间外交与人民外交，正是中国外交工作最具本土特色的实践成果之一。在中国特色社会主义新时代，全国对外友协将继续与中国人民外交学会彼此支持、相互协力，各美其美、美美与共，携手并肩学习和践行习近平外交思想，不断提高辩证思维能力，适应新形势，解决新问题，力争开创新时代民间外交与人民外交工作的崭新局面，在中国特色大国外交的时代舞台上协力演奏出高山流水、琴瑟和鸣的交响华章。
作为新中国外交思想的践行者，作为中国人民外交学会的前任会长，在学会成立70年之际，很荣幸参加今天的研讨会。

新中国人民外交是新中国外交的一个重要组成部分。新中国人民外交思想是在新中国成立后复杂的国际环境中产生和发展起来的。新中国人民外交具有十分鲜明的中国特色和时代性，也是新中国外交的一项创举。美国人提出公共外交理念是在20世纪60年代。而我们提出人民外交思想是在1949年。1949年12月中国人民外交学会成立，可以说是新中国践行人民外交的开始。人民外交具有其独特性、灵活性。不管是人民外交、民间外交、公共外交，因其灵活性和独特性，成为了官方外交的重要补充。特别是新中国成立之初，我们面临着帝国主义的封锁和打压。1949年，与新中国建交的国家只有10个。到50年代，是18个。大量的外交工作需要通过民间外交来做。那种情况下，如何冲破帝国主义的封锁和扼制，与世界各国人民建立友好关系，树立新中国在国际上的地位，使新中国得到国际上的广泛认可呢？仅靠官方外交显然不够，需要通过民间机构和民间渠道，充分发挥人民外交和民间外交的作用。人民外交就是在这样的背景下应运而生的。无论是1949年12月成立的外交学会，还是1954年成立的全国对外友协（那时叫中国人民对外文化友好协会）等其它机构，在新中国成立后，都在广交朋友、增进与世界各国人民的友谊、协助和推动与西方国家包括发达国家建立关系方面，发挥了重要作用。

在新中国70年历程中，特别是改革开放40年中，人民外交的思想、理论、实践不断得到丰富和发展。人民外交为促进我国的改革、开放、发展，增进与世界人民的了解、理解，扩大我们的朋友圈，做出了重要贡献。
当今世界面临百年未有之大变局，中国面临着前所未有的机遇与挑战。中国的一举一动都影响着世界，影响着中国和世界的关系。目前世界进入了一个对中国重新认识的阶段——赞扬的、敬佩的、认可的，大有人在；误解的、猜疑的、抹黑的，也不少。所谓木秀于林，风必摧之。在这个关键时刻，讲好中国故事，发出中国声音，向世界展示一个真实、立体、鲜活的中国，澄清谬误，辨明是非，以正视听，树立我国在世界上的良好形象，促进与各国人民的民心相通、民心相亲，为实现两个百年奋斗目标营造良好、友善的国际环境，是人民外交的中心任务。人民外交要紧紧围绕国家总体外交的中心任务，配合国家重大外交行动，全力服务好国家外交大局。

人民外交要充分调动和统筹各方面的资源。要发挥智库、媒体、学界、企业、政府、地方专业机构的力量，也要发挥有影响的政府官员的力量。我最近到上海、杭州等地做了一些调研工作，想看看地方的公共外交工作究竟是怎么开展的。赵启正曾说过一句话：公共外交真正的力量在民间。以前我不太相信这个说法。但通过这次调研，我对他的这句话已深信不疑。公共外交、民间外交的力量确实在民间。充分利用民间的人脉资源优势，在公共外交方面可做很多事情。所以人民外交要充分调动各方面的资源和力量，形成合力，以产生更加有效的作用和影响。

人民外交还要创新方式和手段，要顺应我们所处的这个高度发达的信息社会的时代特点，广泛应用各种传播和交流手段和平台，丰富交流的方式和方法。

人民外交要重视理论和实践的研究，不断丰富和发展人民外交的内涵。人民外交已经搞了70年，在不同的时期都积累了很多、很好的经验以及范例和做法。我们应善于总结成功实践，从中形成、丰富并发展人民外交理论，用以继续指导人民外交工作。

说到底，搞好人民外交的决定因素还是人。我们必须有一大批会搞人民外交的人。这批人既要了解中国，又要了解外国；既要懂政策，又要懂专业；既要外文好，又要中文好。我们这方面的人才严重不足。当务之急是培养一批会宣讲、能沟通、懂传播的人。这是人民外交的需要，是中国走向世界的需要。

人民外交是一项需要长期坚持不懈的工作，需要经年累月、久久为功，才能做到民心相通、民心相亲、世代友好。

总之，新时期人民外交任重道远，大有可为。中国公共外交协会愿与外交学会、全国友协以及从事人民外交的所有其它机构一起，相互支持，相互配合，共同努力，按照习近平外交思想的精神，开创人民外交工作新局面。
在习近平外交思想指引下开创人民外交工作新局面

李君如 国家创新与发展战略研究会副会长，
中央党校前副校长

作为一名外交工作的特殊“志愿者”，我热烈祝贺中国人民外交学会成立70周年！70年来，学会配合党中央的外交战略，在人民外交事业上创造了绚丽的昨天，立足在精彩的今天，正在走向辉煌的明天。今天之所以精彩，明天之所以辉煌，是因为我们正处在一个大变动、大转折的新时代，我们的事业有习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想的指导。

一

我们都知道，在习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想中，有一个为世人瞩目的重要思想，这就是：习近平外交思想。这一思想是反映中国特色社会主义新时代客观要求的，坚持以中国始终不渝走和平发展道路和推动构建人类命运共同体为目标的，马克思主义中国化的全方位外交思想。

这首先是因为，习近平外交思想是在中华民族伟大复兴的关键阶段和世界百年未有之大变局相互交汇、相互激荡的时代条件下应运而生的。

实现中华民族伟大复兴是近代以来中国人最伟大的梦想，现在我们离实现这一梦想越来越近了，行进了“行百里者半九十”的关键阶段。而实现中华民族伟大复兴，不仅和中国的发展息息相关，还和世界大局的变动密不可分。中国在第一轮经济全球化大潮中错过历史机遇，落后挨打；在第二轮经济全球化大潮被世界大战打断而引起社会主义革命和民族独立高潮的历史条件下，中国经过艰苦卓绝的人民大革命赢得了民族独立和人民解放，“占人类四分之一的中国人民从此站立起来了”；在第三轮经济全球化大潮兴
起之时，中国果断抓住机遇，推进改革开放，建立社会主义市场经济，全面参与经济全球化，主动投入信息化潮流，实现了跨越式发展，中国人在“富起来”的基础上开始向“强起来”的梦想奋进。正在这个时候，世界出现了百年未有之大变局，一方面，和平、发展、合作、共赢成为时代潮流，互联网、大数据、云计算、人工智能迅猛发展；另一方面，全球性问题层出不穷，特别是在贸易保护主义和民粹主义推动下兴起的逆全球化思潮，给世界带来了极大的不确定性，也给中国实现中华民族伟大复兴带来了极大挑战。“世界怎么了，我们怎么办”，成为人们重大的关注点。习近平外交思想就是在这样深刻变动的国内大局和国际大局背景下应运而生的。

同时是因为，习近平外交思想是在“不忘初心、牢记使命”，回答中国和世界面临的时代课题中应运而生的。

面对着如此深刻变动的国内国际两个大局，一系列前所未有的重大课题尖锐地摆在我们面前。习近平是一个具有深邃的哲学思想、宏大的历史思维、宽广的世界眼光和自觉的使命感的马克思主义政治家。在回答今天我们面临的重大问题之前，他总是首先思考一个最基本的问题：我们从哪里来、现在在哪里、将到哪里去？“大哉问”！我们知道，这是一个古老的哲学命题。习近平坚持穷根究底的哲学精神，来回答中华民族伟大复兴的关键阶段和世界百年未有之大变局中发生的问题，并以此形成新时代中国外交思想，实在难能可贵！

在外交工作中提出和思考“我们从哪里来、现在在哪里、将到哪里去”，就是要求我们深入地思考一下我们中国共产党的“初心”和“使命”是什么，新时代的外交工作怎么更好地“守初心，担使命”。习近平说过：“中国共产党是为中国人民谋幸福的党，也是为人类进步事业而奋斗的党。”“中国共产党所做的这一切，就是为中国人民谋幸福、为中华民族谋复兴、为人类谋和平与发展。”他不仅深刻思考了中国共产党从哪里来、现在在哪里、将到哪里去，不仅深刻地思考了我们正在建设的中国特色社会主义从哪里来、现在在哪里、将到哪里去，不仅深刻地思考了中华民族伟大复兴从哪里来、现在在哪里、将到哪里去，而且深刻地思考了今天的世界从哪里来、现在在哪里、将到哪里去。比如他说：“回首最近100多年的历史，人类经历了血腥的热战、冰冷的冷战，也取得了惊人的发展、巨大的进步。”“这100多年全人类的共同愿望，就是和平与发展。然而，这项任务至今远远没有完成。我们要顺应人民呼声，接过历史接力棒，继续在和平与发展的马拉松跑道上奋勇向前。”

正是在这样的思考中，他强调指出：对于中国共产党人来讲，我们在直面“新时代坚持和发展什么样的中国特色社会主义、怎样坚持和发展中国特色社会
主义”这一重大时代课题时，在外交工作中必须更加积极主动地为坚持和发展新时代中国特色社会主义服务，为实现中华民族伟大复兴服务，为人类的和平与发展服务。习近平外交思想就是这样在“不忘初心、牢记使命”，回答中国和世界面临的时代课题中应运而生的。

二

为此，建议学会带领我们认真深入地学习、领会和贯彻好习近平外交思想。

新中国成立以来，特别是改革开放以来，我们的外交工作突飞猛进，出现了天翻地覆的历史性变化。中国特色社会主义进入新时代以来，在习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想指引下，特别是在习近平亲历亲为下，中国外交已经形成了统筹国内国际两个大局、统筹发展、安全、人权三件大事的全方位外交大格局。

所谓“全方位”，从外交工作布局来看，大国外交、周边国家外交、发展中国家外交、多边外交特别是在联合国（包括联合国安全理事会、经社理事会、人权理事会）和国际组织、地区组织之间开展的外交越来越活跃。除了中美关系外，中俄关系、中欧关系、中非关系、中拉关系等各方面外交工作已经全面展开。

所谓“全方位”，从外交工作主体来看，除了国家外交、政党外交外，人大外交、政协外交、人民团体外交、各个部门外交、舆论媒体外交等各个方面外交全面推进。特别是公共外交、民间外交迅猛发展。

所谓“全方位”，从外交工作领域来看，除了处理国家关系、政党关系外，经济贸易关系、文明对话和文化交流、人权对话和交流、军队对话交流和合作、司法交流和合作包括全球追查腐败分子的合作、安全合作包括网络安全等各个领域的外交工作已经全面展开。特别是在实施全方位开放战略的进程中，各个领域的外交工作和经济对外开放紧密配合，成绩显著。尤其是“一带一路”倡议的实施，既把经济全球化推进到了一个陆海内外联动、东西双向互济、线上线下联通的新阶段，又推动外交工作进入到一个经贸、人文、安全等各方面相互合作的综合外交阶段。

所谓“全方位”，从外交工作的对象来看，除了各国国家元首、外交官和其他官员外，外国议员、企业家、学者、人权工作者、文化工作者、社会工作者都在成为外交工作的对象。

所谓“全方位”，从外交工作渠道来看，已经形成了一轨、二轨、一轨半等各种外交渠道相互配合的新格局。智库之间的交流也已相当活跃，为破解国家之间和国际关系中的各种难题发挥了积极作用。近年来，主场外交又成为外交工作
新渠道，对于提升中国新形象发挥了极其重要的作用。

习近平外交思想反映的就是这样一种前所未有的中国外交大格局。因此，学习、领会和贯彻好习近平外交思想是我们的重要任务。中国人民外交学会一定能够在忙碌的日常工作中加强思想理论建设，在习近平外交思想指引下，开创学会工作的新局面。

三

我们学习、领会和贯彻习近平外交思想，归根到底，就是要始终不渝走中国和平发展道路，推动构建人类命运共同体。

面对中华民族伟大复兴的关键阶段和世界百年未有之大变局，中国外交需要解决两个重大问题：一是快速发展的中国如何和世界相处，二是世界应该是什么样的世界。

中国在进入21世纪之初，就已经向世界宣示：中国始终不渝走和平发展道路。也就是说，一个正在快速成长的中国决不走殖民主义老路，决不走后发工业化国家通过战争来实现现代化的死路，决不走扩张主义和霸权主义的绝路。国际社会此起彼伏的“中国威胁论”“中国崩溃论”都是没有根据的臆断。中国成为世界第二大经济体后，在国际社会一些戴着有色眼镜看中国的人中，出现了各种各样的奇谈怪论。针对这种情况，习近平在对外工作中先后提出了中国和世界的关系，已经形成了“利益交汇点”“利益共同体”“命运共同体”等全新的思想，深刻地阐述了一个正在走向“强起来”的中国同世界的相处之道，不是发动战争，不是恃强凌弱，不是损人利己，更不是称霸世界，而是和大家一起共同构建人类命运共同体。

习近平的人类命运共同体思想，不仅回答了一个强盛起来的中国如何同世界相处的问题，而且提出了在当今世界应该建构什么样的国际关系和国际秩序的“中国方案”。他指出，国际社会应该从伙伴关系、安全格局、经济发展、文明交流、生态建设等方面，共同来建设一个持久和平、普遍安全、共同繁荣、开放包容、清洁美丽的世界。为此，中国将以推动构建人类命运共同体为外交工作目标，坚定不移做和平发展的实践者、共同发展的推动者、多边贸易体制的维护者、全球经济治理的参与者。

综上所述，习近平外交思想是习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想的重要组成部分，是中国共产党的外交工作思想在马克思主义中国化进程中形成的最新成果，是全面推进中国外交工作的行动指南。
新中国人民外交的一脉相承和与时俱进

杨洁勉 上海国际问题研究院前院长

在毛泽东和周恩来开创的前进道路上，中国的人民外交已经走过了70年的光辉历程。今天，在新的内外形势下，我们要在习近平外交思想的指引下，继承和发扬人民外交的优秀传统，继续为新时代中国特色大国外交作出新的贡献。

一、人民外交始终如一的目标和任务。中国的人民外交的目标和任务和国家总体外交的目标任务具有一致性，都服务于国家的主权、安全和发展利益。在新中国的最初一二十年，人民外交在毛泽东的亲自部署和周恩来的直接领导下，充分发挥独特的优势，打破了当时国际敌对势力的封锁和围堵，争取到世界各国、特别是未建交国理解支持中国的革命和建设，成为中国民间外交和公共外交的排头兵和先行者。需要指出的是，人民外交在中国和法国、日本、美国等建交中发挥了特殊和不可替代的作用。在改革开放时期，人民外交根据国家工作重心的转移，在促进中外友好省市交流、经济贸易合作、加强教育文化互动和增进相互理解支持等方面深耕细作，有力地配合了国家的总体外交，取得了显著的成绩。进入新时代以来，人民外交在新形式和新条件下走出了新路子，为改善和发展中国同大国、周边、发展中国家等关系作出了新的贡献，在多边外交、领域外交、重要热点问题等方面提供中国智慧和方案，帮助了世界各国更好读懂中国和支持中国的外交政策。

二、人民外交与时俱进的行为体、对象和内涵。70年来，中国和世界都发生了翻天覆地的变化，人民外交在坚持非官方和民间等基本特性的同时，在行为体、对象和内涵等方面经历了与时俱进的发展。

首先，行为体的全方位发展。中国的人民外交已经从建国初期为数不多的组织机构扩大到社会的方方面面，越来越多的地方、部
门、领域、精英人士和广大民众参与人民外交，大大拓展了人民外交的代表性。而且，在2008年的北京奥运会、2010年上海世博会以及各地的超大型民间外交活动等都达到了前所未有的广度、深度和温度。

其次，对象呈几何增长速度。在战后的民族解放运动、世界经济全球化和信息化社会的不同历史阶段，中国的人民外交对象已经从传统的友好组织机构和人士向纵深发展，不仅遍及实体机构，而且还在虚拟世界进行了有益的探索，从而在最大程度上广交朋友圈，促进了中国和世界的相互了解和支持。

第三，内涵内涵突出时代特点。随着内外形势的发展，人民外交增添了许多带有时代特征的内涵。一是强调人民性，增加了人民群众对人民外交的参与度和成就感。二是发挥经济和科技界的作用，把经济金融提质升级、信息革命、人工智能和前沿科技更加紧密地与人民外交结合在一起。三是重视战略思维，更加强调高端智库和学术外交在人民外交中的地位和作用。上述的时代特征的变化和进步，体现了人民外交新的历史使命和责任担当。

三、加强人民外交的思想理论建设与创新。思想理论是人民外交的灵魂，我们要在增进实践自觉和理论自觉的基础上，加大中国人民外交思想理论的建设和创新。

首先，学懂弄通习近平关于人民外交的重要思想。当前，中国人民外交面对纷繁复杂的内外变化和挑战，比以往任何时候更需要理论的指导和遵循。习近平有关的重要思想是建国70年来人民外交思想的集大成者，指导着当前和今后相当时期内为什么、做什么和如何做。

其次，动态总结和深入发展人民外交。当前，世界面临百年之巨变，不确定不稳定因素明显上升，我们要从历史中借鉴，对当前提出问题，为未来找方向。在科学总结经验、发现规律和把握方向的基础上，在中国人民外交的指导思想、顶层设计、战略思维和实际工作等方面取得更加辉煌的成就。

第三，要加强人民外交思想理论的国际交流。在国际关系和世界事务中，人民外交具有普遍意义。因此，需要通过国际间的合作研究、会议、出版和活动等，加强地区和世界范围内的人民外交互相学习，在提升中国人民外交的国际影响和世界意义的同时，共同促进新型国际关系和人类命运共同体的理论建设。

在回顾总结中国的人民外交70年的光辉历程时，我们要提高政治站位和扩大国际视野，在未来的发展中勇于探索和善于创新，努力开创中国人民外交的新局面。
在“新中国人民外交思想研讨会”上的讲话

戚振宏  中国国际问题研究院院长

首先，对外交学会成立70周年表示热烈祝贺！学会成立70年来，在拓展外交空间、增进我国人民与世界各国人民相互沟通和了解、促进我国与各国友好关系的建立和发展、提升国家形象等方面，发挥了极其重要而独特的作用。我相信，在王超会长带领下、在学会全体同志的共同努力下，外交学会必将越办越好，续写新的辉煌。

人民外交是外交学会的招牌，更是国家总体外交的重要组成部分。在学会成立70周年之际讨论新中国人民外交思想，对丰富和发展中国特色社会主义外交理论、推动人民外交迈上新台阶具有重要的理论和现实意义。

人民外交是中国共产党和新中国外交的一项创举，具有鲜明的中国特色。新中国人民外交思想继承了中国传统优秀文化和中国共产党的长期革命和外交实践经验，具体体现了以下特征。

一是高度重视人民在外交中的作用。周恩来总理曾指出：“两国人民之间的关系，不能单靠职业外交家来进行，更多地应该依赖两国人民直接地来进行”。他在1952年4月30日所作的《我们的外交方针和任务》讲话中强调：“我们要团结世界各国的人民，不仅兄弟国家的人民，就是原殖民地半殖民地国家和资本主义国家的人民，我们也要争取。外交是通过国家和国家的关系这个形式来进行的，但落脚点还是在影响和争取人民，这是辩证的。这一点要搞清楚。”习近平总书记曾多次指出，“国之交在于民相亲，民相亲在于心相通”。无论对周边国家的“亲、诚、惠、容”还是对非洲国家的“真、实、亲、诚”理念，都强调民相亲。实际上，人民外交说到底就是民心外交，即通过交深交朋友，实现民心相通、民心相亲，促进互信，建立友谊，为国家关系发展夯实民意基础。
二是强调官民并举、以民促官。陈毅副总理兼外长曾指出，“中国的人民外交，是通过政府外交和民间外交两种形式来实现的。这种形式的密切结合和灵活运用，构成了我们人民外交的体系，成为我们对外工作的最大特色。”在新中国成立早期，人民外交往往是官方外交的先行者。新中国通过加强与其他各国人民之间的联系，打破帝国主义国家对中国的外交封锁，争取国际支持，因而产生了“民间先行、以民促官”的人民外交实践。众所周知，人民外交在推动中法建交、中日邦交正常化等过程中发挥了举足轻重的作用。即使在外交局面完全打开的时期，人民外交在推动中国与世界各国关系，特别是那些与中国出现矛盾摩擦或未建交国关系发展中都发挥了十分重要的作用。

三是彰显外交中的温情。人民外交的重要对象之一是国际知名政治活动家。这些人往往是曾经为中国与其所在国关系发展做过贡献的前政要。中国外交从不赤裸裸地讲利益关系、利用价值，而是强调结新朋友，不忘老朋友，这种“烧冷灶”的做法与其他国家对待前政要人走茶凉的做法大相径庭。实际上，这种重情义的人民外交往往可以更好地调动相关人士的积极性，充分发挥其独特影响力，为促进中国与对象国双边关系作出新的贡献。

四是充分发挥公共外交的功能。公共外交的主要使命是争取他国民众对本国的了解和认同，提升本国的国际形象。人民外交的对象除国际知名政治活动家外，还包括议员、学者、知名人士、青年精英，等等，这些人往往是对象国的“意见领袖”，是影响对象国对华认知的关键引导力量。通过与他们的交往，可以将中国理念、经济社会发展状况、治国理政经验传递到对方国家，使其精英阶层乃至普通民众更好地认识、理解中国，从而起到其他外宣手段难以发挥的作用。据了解，外交学会近年来还积极举办各种论坛和国际会议，成为讲述中国故事、宣介中国道路的新的公共外交主力军之一。

当今世界正处在百年未有之大变局，大国竞争日趋激烈，特别是美西方对我无端指责、刻意抹黑愈演愈烈，使得国际舆论环境面临新的复杂挑战。在此背景下，人民外交承载着新的争取民心的使命。我们应认真总结人民外交70年来的宝贵经验、深入学习领会习近平外交思想，进一步完善中国特色人民外交思想，以奋发有为的精神面貌拓展人民外交的内涵、创新人民外交形式，不忘初心，牢记使命，为推动中国特色大国外交、构建人类命运共同体做出新的贡献。
**BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF THE CPIFA**

The Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) was established on December 15, 1949, the same year of the founding of the People’s Republic of China. As the first institute devoted to people-to-people diplomacy of the PRC, CPIFA was founded at the initiative of the late Premier Zhou Enlai. Premier Zhou Enlai and the late Vice Premier Chen Yi both once served as the Honorary President of the Institute.

The purposes of CPIFA are to enhance people-to-people friendship, to facilitate state-to-state relations, and to pursue world peace, development and cooperation. To this end, CPIFA takes the initiative to establish and maintain relations with prestigious political and social activists, parliaments, think tanks, media, etc., to carry out dialogues and communications on bilateral relations, major international and regional issues based on the exchange mechanism of Track II diplomacy, to conduct public diplomacy activities by hosting and organizing some major forums and conferences, to study international situation and foreign policies, and to publish the English quarterly journal, Foreign Affairs Journal.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, CPIFA is committed to “making friends for the country” by taking concerted actions with China’s overall diplomacy, expanding foreign exchanges, telling Chinese stories, promoting interaction between China and the rest of the world, and facilitating the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

To date, CPIFA has hosted the visits of over 30,000 guests of 4,000 plus delegations including foreign prestigious statesmen, parliament members, think tanks, media, etc. The Institute maintains contacts with famous statesmen, diplomats, social activists, entrepreneurs, experts and scholars on international studies from over 120 countries and has established more than 20 bilateral dialogue and exchange mechanisms.