

Opening Ceremony of the 6th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention

We Chinese are All Descendants of Emperors Huangdi and Yandi

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Respected Chairman

Respected Leaders

Respected Relatives and Friends from Abroad,

It is my pleasure to attend the Sixth World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention held here in Nanjing. The first convention, advocated by entrepreneurs of the Chinese origin in Singapore, was held in Singapore, the second in Hong Kong, the third in Thailand, the fourth in Canada, the fifth in Australia, and the sixth meeting is held here in Nanjing. Nanjing, a famous historical city, had been the capital of six dynasties and also was the capital of the Republic of China. After earth-shaking changes in the past 50 years since the liberation, Nanjing now greets us with a brand new outlook - not only has its economy witnessed fast development, its scenery and scenic spots are also better than that of those years before.

All the People of the World are Brothers

Viewing from evolution of history, China has 56 ethnic groups with the Han people accounting for more than 90% of the total population. China has a vast territory and the life and culture of people varies from place to place. The land terrain of northwest China, Inner Mongolia, Qinghai and Tibet is similar to the grassland of the central Asia, and local residents mostly make a living on animal husbandry. North China, including the Yellow River basin, is an agricultural area. Central China is situated at the Yangtze River and Covers, Jianghuai, Jianghan and Sichuan alluvial plains and the local people there also live on farming. South China includes Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou and Yunnan, most of these regions, excluding the alluvial plains of the Pearl River and other rivers, are steep mountains and deep valleys which are difficult for human inhabitaion. The climatic changes north of the Great Wall forced the nomadic tribes to migrate southward. In North China, natural disasters caused by damages to ecological and water systems also forced people to migrate southwards. Central China was relatively ideal for human inhabitation, but fast growth of population, political corruption and natural disasters also led to the consequence that local residents moved southwards. Due to the changes of natural environment, people of different ethnic groups began to mingle together and to have constant contacts. After the Shang and Zhou dynasties, "the Han and the non-Han ethnic people" lived together. In the Han Dynasty, its territory expanded, different ethnic groups were mixed with one another and had close exchanges. When wars and conflicts ended, they lived in harmony and had inter-ethnic marriages. Generations after generations, these ethnic groups prospered. The Northern and Southern Dynasty was the most

chaotic period in the Chinese history and was at the same time the melting pot of the Chinese nation. Ethnic groups such as Xianbi, Tuoba, Rourang and Tujue, that used to be strong groups, began to accept and take in the Han culture. The Chinese nation adopted an open and tolerant attitude towards foreign culture and religious belief. In Tang dynasty, Buddhism was introduced to China, but Islam and Christianity were also tolerated and unbiased. The customs and beliefs of different groups were respected. Although they lived in harmony, they still had different customs and beliefs. And it was because of the multi-culture coexistence as mentioned above that enabled the ancient Chinese nation to have experienced several thousand years of vicissitudes and traversed a Zig-Zag path to modern civilization.

Taking into consideration of the evolution of the Chinese nation, all ethnic groups intermingled with each other in thousands of years in the vast territory ever since human beings began to live on this land. Although there were wards, blending and assimilation were the main theme, and all the people of the world were treated as brothers. Sima Qian, in his book the Records of A Historian, said that Emperor Huangdi was the ancestor of the Chinese nation, and people of all ethnic groups were the descendants of Emperor Huangdi. Actually, the blood of the Han people was not pure either. After thousands of years, the ancestors of the Han people were no longer divided into the Han and the non-Han people.

Adapting to the Environment and Supporting One Another

The most important thing is to survive when human beings come to this world. The environment in which people live is not always ideal and perfect. Therefore, they have to adapt to the environment. Men who adapt themselves to the environment will survive, otherwise, they will be perished. This is the law of the nature. Human beings have to correctly handle the relationship between the man and the nature and the relationship between the individuals and the groups, and have to establish his/her own philosophy of life. Farming and animal husbandry must follow the law of the changes of the nature. In ancient times, people already had a clear understanding about astronomy and constellation. In the Shang Dynasty, people began to use the lunar and Gregorian calendars. And they had successfully arranged their production and daily life in accordance with the changes of four seasons and the time sequence of 24 solar terms. The ability of an individual to survive was limited. The man was weak because he could not run fast, his mouth was not big enough, and he had limited power and strength and had to live on the support of others for a long period after birth. Therefore, the man had to get on well with others and had to consider the situation as a whole. Only when human beings cooperated and supported one another, could they survive in the harsh environment. In order to understand the nature and correctly handle the relationships with others, they had to establish their morality and personality and improve the knowledge and quality of individuals. In the harsh and difficult environment, they made unremitting efforts and worked hard to survive.

In the past, the Chinese people went abroad simply for making a living, and it was the only choice

for them to do so due to natural disasters and man-made catastrophes. In the early years, most of them did hard labor; they used Singapore as a transit on their way to the South Sea Islands, and then headed to Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. Therefore, Singapore got its nickname of "place of hard labor" or "place to make both ends meets". The Chinese reclaimed land and grew rubber trees there. Some of them went to America as hard labor to build railways. Most of the Chinese who went to Europe worked there as hard labor during World War I. When they began to settle down, they had to work as small merchants or vendors, and most of them did they business in catering, laundry and grocery. The Chinese, scattering around the world, were usually called people of China, Tang people and Han people, and those born there were called descendants of the Chinese origin, and the place where they lived was called Chinatown. They, making a living in a foreign land, had neither the protection of political forces nor the backing of economic strength, what they had to do was to work hard, bear the unbearable and provide services to others so as to make a living. Within the legitimate scope of the localities, they adapted themselves to the local environment, worked hard and started businesses, and their offspring, after hard working for generations, finally received higher education. Some of them became entrepreneurs and were gradually blended into the mainstream society, and gradually built their positions in various industries and trades such as education, health, science, etc... They cooperated harmoniously with other nationals and made their contributions to the society.

Dignity Matters, Living in Harmony with Others but not Being Assimilated

The Chinese have adapted themselves to different environment in different land and served the local society. They struggled for survival with hope and with the ethical concept of centering on families and of respecting the ancestry. Home means hope to us and gives us the strength to struggle on when we are in a difficult situation. In a home, the father is the chief, he is responsible for everything. The most important thing is to educate the children and to maintain the responsibility relationships in the family. There are three relationships in a family - the relationships between father and son, between husband and wife and between brothers. Everyone has his position in a family: the father is righteous, the mother is kind, the brother is friendly, the younger brother is respectful and the son is filial and obedient. This was called the "five cardinals" in the ancient times and was the rules to follow. Family is the basic social unit, and family members should be harmonious and love each other. Even if one is under extremely difficult situations, his children should be taught not to lose their dignity, not to do anything against the ethics and morality, but to live a simple life, not to yield, to work hard, to carry on the traditions of the family and to take care of those who are vulnerable. Wherever one is and whatever the situation one is in, he should always follow these cardinals and ethics.

There were wars and killings, tyrant rulers and corrupt officials in all dynasties in China. In the soil of the small peasant economy, interests of tribes and clans were the cores and many people were often shortsighted. Within families, brothers could turn into strangers, and among families, distrust existed, and the interests of the public were neglected. Unity, cooperation and mutual support

should be the mainstream of social progress, people tend to pursue the philosophy of "the whole world as one community" and "all people belong to one family". The core of this thinking is that human beings should be taken as the most important factor. The ethics for the man are to be tolerant and to follow the example of the kind and the good. It is important to let all theories and schools of thoughts co-exist. Buddhism, Islam and Christianity are all foreign. Buddhism is the main religion of the Chinese, it was disseminated into China from India two thousand years ago. After evolution and development for a long period, the Chinese Buddhism is now different from the original tenets of Indian Buddhism. The Chinese Buddhism advocates going into the society and helping all to ascent to the heaven. Some monks even know how to recite poems and draw paintings. The Chinese people worship many gods: the Jade Emperor, Avalokitesvara, the Monkey King, God Lu, the god of the kitchen, the god of the earth, etc... In Hong Kong, people also worship other gods, such as the militants worship. Lord Guan, the carpenters worship Lu Ban and the tea drinkers worship Lu Yu, etc... In terms of academic studies people borrow the best from all schools. In the modern society, the Chinese people always cast a critical eye on the traditional culture while borrowing a lot of advanced Western culture. The Chinese communities throughout the world also assimilate the eminent culture of the world. For instance, the Chinese Cultural Centre of Calgary, Canada is the place where people of all ethnic groups and from different societies gather together and organize various worshipping activities.

Mankind has entered upon the 21st century. Thanks to the fantastic spurt in science and technology, human has broaden and enrich its knowledge of the universe and the nature, and the life of humanity has stepped into a brand-new stage in which there are electronic remote control technology, cloning, genetic engineering, nano materials... as well as highly destructive weapons. However, what impacts these creations and the inventions will exert on the environment that human depend on has been a great concern to us. The purpose of development in science and technology is to ensure human's happiness and prosperity. We live in a Global Village in which we are closely linked with each other and all of us share weal and woe and go through thick and thin together. Nothing can exist without its basis so, we must protect the ecological balance of the nature, must cherish and value the natural environment that we depend on for survival just like we do for our family interest. This is also the fundamental law for live that human must be abide by.

Conditions Change as Time Flies, but We Chinese will Make Unremitting Efforts to Improve Ourselves

In the late years of the 20th century, China witnessed important changes of times. After the Opium War of 1840 more than a hundred years ago, Western powers invaded and humiliated China. The country was chaotic and corrupt, and the people were at the mercy of others. Many thinkers examined the reason why China was lagged behind. The most urgent call then was to rise to save the nation. An enlightenment movement swept across the country and various schools of thoughts and movements emerged, such as the Constitutional Reform and Modernization, the 1911 Revolution and the May 4 Movement, etc... Important issues, such as patriotism and strong nation,

traditional culture and modern civilization, social sciences and natural sciences, politics and economy, agriculture and industry, democracy and the rule of law, the democratic republic and the constitutional monarchy, the Three People's principles (Nationalism, Democracy and People's Livelihood), socialism, communism and the cultural revolution, conflicted one another in practice. Some disappeared as bubbles and some had their impacts on the society. After a half-century struggle, it proved that only Marxism and Leninism changed the destiny of China. From the founding of the Communist Party of China in 1921 to this day, we have traversed a rough and bumpy road, in which the Soviet Unions was disintegrated and drastic changes had taken place in Eastern Europe. In China, many difficulties and problems have also been piled up over the years, pending for solutions. Reform is needed for what is old, exploration is needed for what is new. The Communist Party of China's history of several thousand years. People begin to live a stable and comfortable life and the country becomes prosperous and strong. In July this year, China won the bidding for the 2008 Olympics Games. This is the natural result of advancement and progress of the country. In the past 100-plus years, China embarked on the road of prosperity from the verge of poverty and extinction. And today it has made unprecedented achievements. The reform and opening up, in particular, give us hope and we foresee the grand rejuvenation of the ancient Chinese nation.

President Jiang Zemin, in summing up the Chinese history and on the basis of the existing theories of scholars of the past, proposed the historic tasks and goals of the Communist Party of China, for the Chinese people and put forward the "Three Represents". We all have witnessed the changes in several decades of Chinese history. I have not yet studied thoroughly the "Three Represents". However, I'm confident that the "Three Represents" conforms to the great world trend of today, to the Chinese national conditions, gives consideration to the overall interests of the nation, encourages the development of the fine traditions of the national culture and borrows the advanced foreign experiences. The "Three Represents" means, on the basis of reform and opening up, another important step forward. This is the development orientation of the Chinese nation in the new era and I will march on this road resolutely.

The development of the Chinese economy is an important opportunity for all in the new century. I hope we will engage in good cooperation in terms of business activities.

May I wish all of you success and great fortune. Thank you.

Notes: Xiangbi: refers to the name of a tribe, which was a branch of the Tonggusi ethnic group. It originated in areas east of the Xin'anling and lived in areas of northeast China and east of the Inner Mongolia. It reached its height at the end of the Han Dynasty and was gradually assimilated with the Han people after the Sui and Tang dynasties.

Tuoba: a surname of the imperial family during the Northern Wei Dynasty.

Rouran: refers to the name of a tribe, which was one of the northern tribes in the ancient times. Another name for the eastern Hun people. They controlled Mongolia and Inner Mongolia at their pinnacle days, but later were conquered by the Tujue people.

Tujue: refers to the name of a tribe. During the Sui and Tang dynasties, these people controlled the northern part, and were later divided into the eastern and western tribes. Most of the eastern tribe moved into China. The western tribe migrated to the west Asia and established what is now called Turkey.

The 24 solar terms:

The first month of the lunar year: the Beginning of Spring; Rain Water

The second month of the lunar year: the Waking of Insects; the Spring Equinox

The third month of the lunar year: Pure Brightness; Grain Rain

The fourth month of the lunar year: the Beginning of Summer; Grain Full

The fifth month of the lunar year: Grain in Ear; the Summer Solstice

The sixth month of the lunar year: Slight Heat; Great Heat

The seventh month of the lunar year: the Beginning of Autumn; the Limit of Heat

The eighth month of the lunar year: White Dew; the Autumnal Equinox

The ninth month of the lunar year: Cold Dew; Frost's Descent

The tenth month of the lunar year: the Beginning of Winter; Slight Snow

The eleventh month of the lunar year: Great Snow; the Winter Solstice

The twelfth month of the lunar year: Slight Cold; Great Cold