

Remarks by Ambassador for Closing Ceremony of Asian Dialogue for Cultural Heritage Conservation

Theme: Promoting Dialogue among Civilizations, shaping the Future of Asia

Thursday, 28 October 2021, 1650 hours

H.E. Mr Li Qun,

Administrator, National Cultural Heritage Administration of China

Mr. Hu Bing,

Deputy Administrator, National Cultural Heritage Administration of China

Mr. Mr. Liu Yuzhu,

Chairman, China Foundation for Cultural Heritage Conservation

Ms. Wang Cui Jie

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Da Jia Xia Wu Hao,

It is a matter of great honour for me to participate today in the closing ceremony of Asian Dialogue for Cultural Heritage Conservation. I wish to extend my heartiest felicitations to the National Cultural Heritage Administration of China and Government of Beijing Municipality for holding this important meeting and congratulate them on its great success.

I was deeply impressed by the yesterday's remarks of Mr. Hu Heping, the Minister of Culture and Tourism reiterating China's commitment for working with the Asian countries, on the basis of cultural affinity, for shaping a community of shared destiny.

I would also like to congratulate Mr. Li Qun for successful organisation of this Dialogue, which is a first pan-Asian forum for the preservation of cultural heritage of our region.

Dear Friends,

The landmass of Asia is the birthplace of human civilisation. From the fertile river valleys and desert oases of this ancient continent rose many movements which profoundly shaped the political and intellectual landscape of the entire world. Since ancient times, Asia has retained its cultural brilliance, pluralistic spirit and artistic magnificence and now stands ready to play a historic role for shaping the global politics, economics and culture.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Culture provides a grand canvas which draws from our past to build our future. Cultural heritage defines our collective consciousness and serves as a guiding star. Seen from this perspective, conservation of cultural heritage is vital as it connects us with our past, helps to draw lessons and harmonises our individual and collective existence.

The establishment of Asian Alliance for Cultural Heritage Conservation is, therefore, a step in the right direction for the preservation of our cultural heritage, promotion of our cultural ethos and building bridges of cooperation for exchange of views on the areas of mutual interest. Transcending the political divides and polemics, this mechanism would unite all Asian nations for the noble cause of conserving our cultural symbols as a common heritage of the Asian peoples.

Among other outcomes of this Dialogue, the establishment of *Asian Fund for Cultural Heritage Conservation* would help member countries for pooling resources to support programs and projects for academic research, exploration and conservation of our cultural heritage.

It is also heartening to note that by launching *Asian Dialogue for Cultural Heritage Conservation*, this Dialogue has prioritised training of future generations and for developing a dedicated human resource for preservation of cultural heritage.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Pakistan’s Ambassador to UNESCO in Paris, I have the privilege of working closely with the Chinese colleagues and experts for preservation of our cultural heritage and intangible culture. China’s sincere efforts to protect the old relics of past and building consensus for conservation of global cultural symbols have been acknowledged by the international community. I am delighted to observe that with the success of Asian Dialogue for Cultural Heritage Conservation, Asian countries would now be able to benefit from Chinese expertise in this important field.

Distinguished Guests,

Pakistan is situated at the cross-roads of South and Central Asia and the Middle East. It is the birthplace of ancient civilizations which made major contributions to art, philosophy and literature of the entire region since primordial times.

Pakistan’s Islamic identity, Asian values and embrace of modernity has fashioned its pluralistic and progressive outlook. Besides all-weather and special friendship with China, Pakistan has sincere feelings of goodwill and friendliness towards all nations in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

As a member of Asian fraternity and an ancient civilisation with rich cultural diversity, Pakistan endorses the outcomes of this Dialogue and supports its objectives. We look forward to play our role from this important platform and desire to work with all members to make it a robust and sustainable mechanism for the attainment of shared objectives.

Concluding my remarks, I would again like to congratulate all participants of this Dialogue especially thank the People's Republic of China for its active role for turning this long cherished idea into a concrete and tangible reality.

I thank you all!