

Opening remarks for Confucius Institute in University of Cyprus

Luo Jie (The Member of Beijing Municipal Commission of Education)

Today, I am very happy to attend with all of you the opening ceremony of the Confucius Institute at the University of Cyprus. Please allow me, on behalf of Beijing Municipal Commission of Education, to extend my warmest congratulations to the establishment of the UCY Confucius Institute, and to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the leaders, professors, experts and staff who have made great contributions to the successful establishment of our Confucius Institute.

Cyprus enjoys a unique geographical location at the crossroads of three continents, which enables Cyprus to play a very important role in the cultural exchanges between Asia, Africa and Europe. The relationship and cultural exchange between Cyprus and China have both solid traditional foundation and sound current condition. Our two peoples have been learning from each other, and working together to make important contributions to the development of human civilization. In recent years, we have seen both increasingly frequent exchanges in various fields between our two countries and more urgent desire for mutual understanding and communication between our two peoples. As the capital city of China, Beijing is also the political center, the cultural center, the international exchange center, and the science and technology innovation center of China. Beijing municipality is very willing to promote educational and cultural exchanges between China and Cyprus. Under the guidance of China's Ministry of Education and Hanban, Beijing Municipal Commission of Education has been actively supporting the cooperation between Beijing Institute of Education and the University of Cyprus in establishing the Confucius Institute, which will enhance Chinese language education and cultural exchanges between our two countries.

Through three years of joint efforts of both sides, we finally established the Confucius Institute at the University of Cyprus. This will be a new beginning for the in-depth educational and cultural cooperation between our two countries.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Confucius Institute and the first ever global Confucius Institute Day, Chinese President Xi Jinping has sent a congratulatory letter in which he mentioned that: “the splendid cultures created by peoples of different countries are the shared treasures of mankind. We shall rejuvenate them in today’s world through exchanges and innovative development. Confucius Institutes belong to China and even more so the world”. The Confucius Institute at the University of Cyprus is the first one in Cyprus. Its establishment will certainly help to improve the Chinese language education in Cyprus, strengthen educational exchanges and cooperation, deepen friendship between our two peoples, especially young people, and promote the continuous development of pragmatic cooperation in various fields between our two countries.

I believe that with the joint efforts of both sides, the cultural and educational exchange and cooperation between China and Cyprus will be more vibrant. And the Confucius Institute at the University of Cyprus will add a rich cultural landscape to the beautiful natural scenery in Cyprus.

Thank you!