

Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Lin Songtian at the Launching Ceremony of the Educational and Cultural Exchange Program between Stellenbosch University and Wuhan College sponsored by NASPERS

10 November 2017

Respected Mr. Koos Bekker, Chairman of NASPERS,
Respected Professor Hester Klopper, Vice-Rector of the Stellenbosch University,
Dear Friends from the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon!

It is my great pleasure to attend this launching ceremony of the Educational and Cultural Exchange Program between the Stellenbosch University and Wuhan College sponsored by NASPERS. On behalf of the Chinese government, I wish to extend our sincere congratulations to the ten Chinese and South African students and the two Chinese lecturers who have been chosen for the program. I also wish to take this opportunity give a thumbs up to NASPERS and the Stellenbosch University for their generous support. Thank you!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Not long ago, I had the great honor to attend the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in Beijing from 18-24 October. I wish to take this opportunity to share with you something about this meeting.

This Congress is an important milestone for both China and the world, and has attracted very high attention from the world. It took place at an important moment: China is in its final stage of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. The Congress reviewed the past five years of work and historical changes of the CPC and the country, and put forward a series of new judgments, new thought, new idea, new blueprint and new strategy for China's socialist modernization drive. The Congress has drawn a new blueprint, and made comprehensive arrangements for the cause of the Party, the country, and China's diplomacy. There is no doubt that this Congress will have far-reaching and positive impact on the future of China and the world. The Chinese President and the CPC General Secretary Xi Jinping said, the CPC is a party that not only pursues happiness for the Chinese people, but also fighting for the cause of human progress. China's peace and development cannot happen without world peace and development. China is committed not only to building a beautiful China, but also to building a beautiful world, and strives to work closely with the international community to build a community of a shared future for mankind.

Indeed, the Congress has opened a brighter and broader prospect for China-SA and China-Africa friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation. As China-Africa and China-SA relations switch into full gear, our people-to-people exchange and cooperation is also picking up greater momentum for development.

First, our people-to-people exchange is thriving. Since the FOCAC Johannesburg Summit in December 2015, China has already trained for African countries over 100,000 technicians, and have provided close to 20,000 government scholarships. I am very happy to see that South Africa has already taken the lead in people-to-people exchanges and cooperation with China. The High-Level People-to-People Exchange Mechanism has been put into full operation. The bilateral exchange and cooperation of media, think tanks and academia have been fruitful. The Chinese language learning has become one of the popular language to learn in South African schools and universities.

Second, our youth exchange continues to deepen. Every year, we held at least one China-Africa Youth Galas. Hundreds of Chinese and African young people have participated in the events. Youth exchange and cooperation will be strengthened in the future.

Third, our business communities have become increasingly supportive of people-to-people exchanges. It is highly appreciated that NASPERS has taken the lead in supporting education and people-to-people exchange. The Great Wall Africa channel sponsored by Naspers has been playing a positive role in promoting mutual understanding between our two peoples. It has been long supporting Chinese language and cultural studies at the Stellenbosch University. The launch of today's new program will inject new impetus to the efforts to strengthen our mutual understanding. The Chinese company Huawei has established a training center in South Africa and trained over 20,000 engineers. The company has launched the ICT talents training program Seeds for the Future by planning to train 1,000 young South Africans in information and communications technology in China over a five-year period. These efforts of our business community to support people-to-people exchange are well-recognized and deeply appreciated.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Currently, China-South Africa comprehensive strategic partnership maintains robust momentum. Driven by three engines of mutual political trust, economic and trade cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, China-SA relations have delivered tangible results to both peoples. Situated in a prime location, and boasting rich resources, sound infrastructure, well-regulated market, and sound legal system, South Africa is the leading African country that is in the best position for deeper China-Africa mutually beneficial cooperation. China and South Africa not only have the comparative advantages, and more importantly a strong political commitment to the common development. A new miracle for development will be created by China and South Africa complementing their respective strengths for win-win cooperation.

Next year will mark the 20th anniversary of China-South Africa diplomatic ties. China and South Africa will take this important opportunity to promote cooperation in ten priority areas including infrastructure, human resources, manufacturing and processing, agriculture, tourism, marine economy, finance, security, people-to-people exchange and international cooperation. China is ready to support South Africa as a locomotive to drive Africa's industrialization, and a production base for African industrialization and modernization and make China-South Africa relations more productive and more beneficial to our two peoples.

Thank you!

--

Press & Public Affairs Section
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
in the Republic of South Africa
Follow us on: <http://www.chinese-embassy.org.za/eng/>
Like us on Facebook: the Chinese Embassy in SA
(<https://www.facebook.com/chinainsa?ref=hl>)