

Award Ceremony Speech for the 2nd Award for Outstanding Contributions to China Studies

Weng Tiejui

Vice Mayor of Shanghai Municipality



At the grand opening ceremony of the 5th World Forum on China Studies, on behalf of the Organizing Committee of the World Forum on China Studies and the Expert Academic Panel, I'd like to show my sincere respect and warm congratulations to the three winners of the second Award for Outstanding Contribution to China Studies.

As an important part of the World Forum on China Studies, the Award for China Studies is intended to award and encourage overseas masters who have long been devoted to research on China studies and have made prominent achievements. The first award was granted in 2010, with the winners being four world-famous China studies experts, namely Igor Alekseevich Rogachev, Kazuko Mori, Jacques Gernet and Philip Kuhn.

To establish a fair and perfect recommendation and evaluation mechanism and make the Award for China Studies a credible and authoritative academic honor, the forum office drafted the Regulations for Granting the Award for Outstanding Contributions to China Studies (Trial) in 2012, and decided to set up two sub-awards, namely the Award for Outstanding Contributions to China Studies by Foreigners and the Award for Outstanding Contributions to China Studies by Overseas Chinese. The former is intended to award foreign scholars in the fields of humanities and social sciences who have been dedicated to research on China issues all their lives, made major academic achievements and had far-reaching academic influence in relevant fields. The latter is aimed to award overseas Chinese scholars in the fields of humanities and social sciences who have been dedicated to research on China

issues all their lives, made major academic achievements and made outstanding contributions to the spread of Chinese culture overseas.

Now, please allow me to brief you on the three winners of the second Award for China Studies.

The first winner of the Award for Outstanding Contributions to China Studies by Foreigners is Mr. Ezra Vogel from the US and the second winner is Mr. S.L. Tsykhvenski from Russia. The winner of the Award for Outstanding Contributions to China Studies by Overseas Chinese was Jao Tsung-I from Hong Kong.

Devoted to China studies, the three winners have worked diligently, published much work and contributed greatly to Sinology education. Although they are unable to be present here because of health reasons, they have happily accepted the award and sent representatives to receive the prize. This represents another milestone in the development of the Award for China Studies. Let's congratulate them with our warmest applause!

Worldwide research on China studies has become increasingly standardized and complicated, the result of hard work by China studies scholars for generations. Research on China studies needs to inherit the achievements made in the past and introduce novel ideas in the days to come. We will continue granting the award in the future, in a bid to honor outstanding scholars from around the world and encourage future generations to carry their spirit forward. We also hope this award will help establish examples for research on China studies, advance the development of China studies and give more academic meaning to the World Forum on China Studies.

The world has come to know China after a long process full of moving stories. And the process is growing richer and deeper than ever. The process of how the Chinese have come to know the world is an equally long and winding process. As the saying goes, "the superior man on grounds of culture meets with his friends, and by their friendship helps his virtue."

The World Forum on China Studies is an open academic platform on which guests from all sides gather together and systematically learn about foreign research on China issues. It enables more significant cross-cultural dialogue among peers from all sides. It is with this intention that we have successfully launched four sessions of forums on China studies and are ready to launch the fifth.

Things have changed with the time. Compared with the early years of China's reform and opening-up three decades ago, China has undergone significant changes in its ties with foreign countries, its involvement in the world and even its influence on the international community. The drastic transformation in Chinese

society is attracting more attention from the rest of the world. In the backdrop of the information explosion, the Chinese people have gotten to know the external world more swiftly and comprehensively. They also want to know how foreigners view China and make themselves clearer about their actual situation. So, how to communicate information, exchange ideas and increase consensus is what the research on China studies is intended to work out. As the old Chinese saying goes: "Through the faults of others, wise men correct their own."

As China becomes increasingly prosperous, the China Dream pursued by all Chinese people also calls for global views and modest absorption of excellent academic achievements in China studies research. That way, Chinese culture can become more conscious, confident and magnificent. As we are happy about the gradually stronger research on China studies, we sincerely hope researchers throughout the world will make concerted efforts to present the world with a truer and richer image of China. We also expect constant interaction of ideas and thoughts at the forum on China studies as a high-end academic platform to contribute to a brighter future for China studies around the world.

Thank you!