

## **The Jiangsu Association for the Promotion of Friendship Holds a Symposium on the Prospect of Sino-German Humanities Exchange**

***PMs Chinesisches Generalkonsulat Frankfurt:***

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***Original admin Jiangsu Friendship Promotion Association Today***

Originaltext auf Chinesisch mit Bilder: [https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/Au\\_gihXhrGXhjt8LFhuBaw](https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/Au_gihXhrGXhjt8LFhuBaw)

On April 24, 2021, the Jiangsu Association for the Promotion of Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Baden-Württemberg Chinese Association in Germany held the "Yangtze River International Forum · 2021 Sino-German Humanities Exchange Prospects Symposium" in the conference hall of the Provincial Friendship Promotion Center.

Teng Yong, executive vice president of the Provincial Friendship Promotion Association presided over the seminar.

Lin Xiangguo, President of the Provincial Friendship Promotion Association, Sun Congbin, Chinese Consul General in Frankfurt, and Dr. Elmar Stumpf, President of the Baden-Württemberg Chinese Association, delivered speeches at the meeting.

The meeting invited Shi Mingde, chairman of the China-Germany Friendship Association and former Chinese ambassador to Germany, to be the host of the seminar on "Sino-German Cultural Exchange".

Professor Zou Yajun, executive director of Jiangsu Association for the Promotion of Friendship and Vice President of Nanjing University, was invited to be the host of the seminar on "Sino-German Education Exchange".

The German guests who gave speeches in the seminar video connection are: Freiburg City Museum Executive Chairman of the Alliance, Director of the Augustin Museum, Herr Dr. Tilmann von Stockhausen, Vice Chairman of the Frankfurt Book Fair, Claudia Kaiser, Lecturer, Sinology at the University of Göttingen Frau KarinBetz, Director of the German Academic Exchange (DAAD) Project Department, Herr Dr. Klaus Birk, Vice-Chancellor for Foreign Affairs of the University of Freiburg, Daniela Kleinschmidt Professor (Frau Prof. Dr. Daniela Kleinschmit), Professor Herr Prof. Dr. Helwig Schmidt-Glintzer (Herr Prof. Dr. Helwig Schmidt-Glintzer), Director of the China Center of the University of Tübingen, and Professor Thomas Hilter (Herr Prof . Dr. Thomas Hirth) and so on.

Chinese guests at the seminar were: Gong Liang, Dean of Nanjing Museum, Deputy Director of the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Culture, Bi Feiyu, Chairman of Jiangsu Writers Association, Xu Hai, Editor-in-Chief and Deputy General Manager of Phoenix Publishing and Media Group, and Deputy

Secretary of the Party Committee of Nanjing University of Science and Technology Xi Zhanwen, Deputy Director of International Cooperation and Exchange Office of Soochow University, Zi Hong.

Bernhard Weber, Executive Vice President of the Baden-Württemberg Chinese Association, Chief Representative of Baden-Württemberg in China, Chairman of the Board of the Nanjing Chapter of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, Si Jinquan, Vice President of the Provincial Friendship Promotion Association, Provincial Friendship Promotion Shi Xiaoqing, executive director and deputy director of the Provincial People's Congress Foreign Affairs Committee, Zhao Zhengchi, executive director of the Provincial Friendship Promotion Association and member of the Provincial People's Congress Foreign Affairs Committee, Gao Peng, Assistant to the Chairman of the Provincial Friendship Promotion Association, Yuan Dahai, Executive Secretary-General, heads of relevant departments and provincial friends More than 60 people including some directors and representatives of culture, education, publishing and business circles attended the seminar. According to the back-end technical terminal, the number of online participants from China and Germany exceeded 5,200.

In his speech, President Lin Xiang pointed out that on the 7th of this month, Chinese President Xi Jinping had a telephone conversation with German Chancellor Merkel, which played an important leading role in the development of China-Germany and China-EU relations. President Xi Jinping pointed out: "China-Germany pragmatic cooperation to overcome the impact of the new crown pneumonia epidemic and other factors has made progress while maintaining stability. China has become Germany's largest trading partner in the world for five consecutive years, reflecting the resilience and potential of China-Germany cooperation. The 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Germany and the Beijing Winter Olympics are an opportunity to promote exchanges in the fields of science and technology, education, culture, and sports." In May 2017, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Germany, the two sides established a China-Germany high-level dialogue mechanism for people-to-people and cultural exchanges, building a high-level platform for further strengthening the people-to-people and cultural exchanges between the two countries. Over the years, China-Germany people-to-people exchanges have continued to deepen, and fruitful results have been achieved, which has effectively promoted exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in various fields, making people-to-people exchanges, economic and trade cooperation and political mutual trust the three pillars of the development of China-Germany relations.

Jiangsu is a major economic province in China, rich in cultural and educational resources, and has long-term close contacts with Germany in the fields of economy, trade, culture and education. In 1994, Jiangsu Province established a sister province-state relationship with Baden-Württemberg, and then established 8 pairs of partnership cities with the Frankfurt consular district, which further promoted friendly exchanges between each other. In the past year, the new crown pneumonia epidemic has severely hindered the mutual and face-to-face exchanges between people of the two places. However, with the help of modern communication methods such as video connections, friendly exchanges between the people of the two places have been maintained and developed. The symposium we held today is an example. China-Germany people-to-people and cultural exchanges are a bridge link to enhance the friendship between the two peoples and deepen the relations between the two countries, and help strengthen the public opinion foundation for mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries. We hope that through the exchanges and discussions between experts and scholars from both China and Germany, we can provide ideas and suggestions to further promote the people-to-

people exchanges between Jiangsu and Frankfurt, and even between China and Germany, and jointly promote the development of friendly relations between the people of China and Germany.

Chairman Lin also expressed his gratitude to the Chinese Consulate General in Frankfurt, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Standing Committee of the Jiangsu Provincial People's Congress and the Xinhua Newspaper Media Group Jiangsu Economic News for their strong support to this forum.

Consul General Sun Congbin expressed his warm congratulations on the holding of the "Yangtze River International Forum" on behalf of the Chinese Consulate in Frankfurt via a video connection. He said that culture is the soul of a country, and education is an important cornerstone of national development and social progress. Both China and Germany are large countries with profound cultural heritage, rich educational resources, and openness and tolerance. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, both sides have been actively deepening cooperation and exchanges in the field of culture and education. Especially since the establishment of an all-round strategic partnership between China and Germany in 2014, through channels such as high-level exchanges, Sino-German high-level cultural exchanges and dialogue mechanisms, university cooperation, and non-governmental exchanges, the cooperation and mutual learning in the field of culture and education have been further strengthened, and Sino-German relations have been enriched. Today's forum has successfully overcome the obstacles of the new crown pneumonia epidemic, showing the desire of both sides to strengthen cultural exchanges between China and Germany, and will inject new impetus into the development of China-Germany relations.

Consul General Sun Congbin pointed out that this year is a special year for China, and the Communist Party of China will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Over the past 100 years, the Communist Party of China has led the Chinese people to achieve independence and liberation, and developed China from a poor and backward country to the second largest economy in the world, becoming a staunch force for maintaining world peace and promoting common development. In 2020, facing the severe new crown pneumonia epidemic, China quickly and decisively adopted the most stringent epidemic prevention measures, promoted international cooperation in the fight against the epidemic, and restored economic and social order. Not only has it become the only major economy in the world to achieve positive growth, it has also achieved a battle against poverty. All-out victory. The Communist Party of China can lead China to achieve today's achievements, inseparable from the party's purpose of serving the people wholeheartedly. President Xi Jinping once said: "The people are the creators of history, and the people are true heroes." The founding Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Adenauer, also said: "Every political party exists for the people, not for itself. (Jede) Partei ist für das Volk da und nicht für sich selbst." It can be said that putting people first and everything for the people is the common starting point of the Chinese and German governments. We are very happy to see that the pragmatic cooperation and friendly exchanges between the two countries have brought tangible benefits to the two peoples. China has become Germany's largest trading partner for five consecutive years and Germany's second largest export destination country. So far, the two countries have established 97 pairs of friendly provinces, prefectures (cities), more than 1,400 pairs of inter-university exchanges, and in-depth cooperation in many areas that benefit people's livelihoods, such as electric vehicles, green development, and climate protection.

Consul General Sun Congbin said that the friendship between the nations lies in the closeness of the people, and the closeness of the people lies in the connection of hearts. People-to-people exchanges

between China and Germany can enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the people of the two countries. It is not only the aspiration of the people, but also conducive to creating a harmonious and stable international environment and promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. China will firmly implement the new development concept, actively build a new development pattern with the domestic cycle as the main body and the domestic and international dual cycles promoted, continue to open up to the outside world, and carry out mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation with other countries. Both China and Germany are staunch defenders of multilateralism. In the future, the two sides will have a broader space for cooperation in various fields such as economy, trade, science and technology, and humanities. Our consulate general is willing to work with you to continue to promote the development of Sino-German relations.

Dr. Elmar Stumpf, President of the Baden-Württemberg Chinese Association in Germany, has worked in Nanjing for more than six years and is a witness and witness of the Sino-German partnership for more than 30 years. He (video link) said in a speech that the new crown epidemic has prevented us from seeing each other offline, but we will not miss the exchange. For this, I would like to thank the Jiangsu Association for the Promotion of Friendship with Foreign Countries again! Museums and other cultural institutions and their various publications are people's spiritual food. In the context of digitalization, more people can be benefited, and our horizons will therefore be broader. Of course, in some specific areas, maintaining the traditional mode of communication is also a comforting thing. Creating knowledge is our purpose, and bringing people together to learn from each other is our task. The Baden-Württemberg China Association brings together experts from China and Germany to jointly participate in and promote cultural cooperation and research on artificial intelligence, new transportation and new energy. Soon, we will showcase the results of economic cooperation between Baden-Württemberg and China, which will provide more information and resources to the scientific and technological community, and lay a more solid foundation for our new cooperation. I look forward to hearing your reports and opinions in today's event, especially the discussion about the collision between tradition and modernity, which will push us to better carry out relevant research.

Ambassador Shi Mingde said that next year is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Germany. I have participated in and experienced the entire process of Sino-German relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations, and witnessed the cultural, educational, and cultural exchanges between China and Germany. Fruitful results have been achieved in cooperation in many fields such as science, technology, economy and trade. The epidemic has blocked the communication between people, and has also produced some disharmony and mistrust between countries and between people that shouldn't be generated. Under this circumstance, people-to-people and cultural exchanges and interpersonal exchanges seem to be more important, and culture and education are the easiest areas for such communication and exchanges.

In the following discussion, the Dean of Nanjing Museum Gong Liang and the executive chairman of the Freiburg City Museum Alliance and the director of the Augustin Museum Tillman von Stockhausen respectively (video link) introduced their respective museums. The status quo, development history, main exhibition halls and precious exhibits, and the development of international cooperation and exchanges between the two parties and their counterparts in other countries in the world.

Claudia Kaiser, the vice chairman of the Frankfurt Book Fair, shared about the world's largest Frankfurt Book Fair and its long-term exchanges and interactions with Chinese counterparts in the field of book

distribution and other fields. Especially in 2009, China was the guest of honor at the Frankfurt Book Fair that year. President Xi Jinping and Chancellor Merkel jointly opened the book fair.

In his speech, Xu Hai, editor-in-chief and deputy general manager of Phoenix Publishing and Media Group, believed that China and Germany are both countries that have made significant contributions to the world's publishing industry, both in terms of technology and ideology. The Chinese invented paper and movable type printing and typesetting, and the Germans invented the printing press and mechanized movable type printing. This made the convenience of printing and the number of printed materials unprecedentedly increased, thus making it possible to spread the publication widely. In the five thousand years of the Chinese civilization, China is the source of Eastern culture, and German philosophers and thinkers with worldwide influence are emerging in an endless stream. The meeting and blending of different cultures continuously infuse various publications with ideological sources that reflect the characteristics of the times, and promote the development of human society.

Editor-in-chief Xu Hai also introduced the status quo and development vision of Phoenix Publishing and Media Group, as well as the cooperation and exchanges in copyright transactions with counterparts in Germany and other countries, especially the cooperation process between China and Germany in publishing "Rabe's Diary".

At the seminar, the well-known writer Bi Feiyu explained his in-depth thoughts on cultural exchanges between the East and the West with "Mutual love and compromise is the truth", which won warm applause from the Chinese and German participants both inside and outside the venue.

In her speech (video), Ms. Karin Betz, a translator from the University of Göttingen, shared her experience of becoming a translator from her curiosity about Chinese history, culture and language, and then she developed a keen interest to become a translator. She said that it takes a lot of effort to translate a work from one language to another and reach the level of faithfulness, expressiveness and elegance, especially the proper German expression of some special allegorical and idioms in Chinese works. Not easy. She believes that translation is actually a practical activity of cultural exchange, and it is also a process of cultural dissemination and transformation. It is hoped that colleagues in the publishing industry of both sides will study the question of what kind of Chinese books the German book market really needs, and introduce more good works of Chinese literature to the German people.

In the seminar on "Sino-German Educational Exchange", Klaus Birk, Director of the German Academic Exchange Center (DAAD) Project Department, introduced that the center has funded many German universities and research institutions for decades to cooperate with China, including Jiangsu Province. The partners carry out project cooperation and subsidize students and teachers from China and Germany to study and exchange in each other. He said that due to the strong education system in Germany, the various types of universities (including vocational education), the full range of courses and majors, the high level of teaching and research, the low tuition fees and the good living environment, it has attracted a large number of international students, including Chinese students. The largest group of all international students in Germany. He also encouraged universities in Germany and China to cooperate with partners in other countries in joint training programs.

Professor Schmidt-Glintzer, director of the China Center of the University of Tübingen, said that China's amazing development achievements, including achievements in education, science and research, have not only made people admire, but also caused some people's worries. Therefore, we need to Get to

know China again. Knowledge about Chinese history is still very important, but we need a new starting point. We should focus on the following six aspects: First, we must pay attention to the diversity of understanding of China in Asia and Western countries. The second is to re-examine the modern history of Asia, Europe and China. Third, we must pay attention to and participate in various dialogues within China and Asia. Fourth, we must pay attention to the issues of Asia itself, which not only involve the constitutions of various countries, but also include what we call psychology and mind. Fifth, we must continue to pay attention to the dialogue among the elites. The sixth is to realize that China is a gathering place of different forces and different ethnic groups. Since the Tang Dynasty settled in Chang'an, it has been standing in the eastern part of the Eurasian continent.

When talking about academic exchanges and student exchanges, Professor Schmidt-Glintzer believes that Chinese students are now talking more about studying in Germany, and more German students should be encouraged to study in China and discuss together with first-class Chinese researchers. Understand China's knowledge fields, academic trends and research projects, understand China's actual national conditions and development trends, share with each other ideas on transformation, change and stability, and exchange ideas with each other about the world

Understanding and expectations.

In the seminar, Zou Yajun, Vice President of Nanjing University, Daniela Kleinschmidt, Vice President of Foreign Affairs of the University of Freiburg, Prof. Schmidt-Glintzer, Director of the China Center of the University of Tübingen, and Thomas, Vice President of Karlsruhe Institute of Technology ·Prof Hirth, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of Nanjing University of Science and Technology Xi Zhanwen, and Deputy Director of the International Cooperation and Exchange Office of Soochow University Zi Hong, respectively introduced the scale, characteristics, development history, teaching and research level of their respective institutions and the exchange of teachers and students between China and Germany. Exchange, joint training, establishment of relevant research institutions and other international exchange and cooperation projects. Professor Zou Yajun concluded: There is a poem in China: Green hills cannot be covered, after all, they flow eastward. Communication is a world trend, an unstoppable trend. The cooperation between China and Germany in the field of higher education will surely usher in a new climax after the epidemic.

Bernhard Weber, Executive Vice President of the Chinese Association of Baden-Württemberg, Germany, on behalf of the German conference organizer, once again thanked the Jiangsu Association for the Promotion of Friendship as the Chinese organizer for its efforts in organizing this forum and hope that there will be more Chinese The exchanges and cooperation in German culture and education will deepen the mutual understanding and trust between the people of China and Germany, especially the young people, and develop friendly relations between China and Germany to benefit the two peoples.

At the seminar, Chinese and German speakers also interacted with on-site and online participants, and answered questions related to the theme of the seminar.