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Application for Hosting the 2018 XXIV World Congress of Philosophy on the Campus of Peking University in the City of Beijing in China

Submitted by the Department of Philosophy and the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies (IAHS) at Peking University

I. The time is ripe for China to host the Congress.

The People's Republic of China has just embarked on a new vision of development which specifies five parallel processes: economic, political, social, and cultural, and ecological. There is clear indication that the political and intellectual elite of China are now committed to a broad conception of development in which economic growth is only one of its necessary dimensions. "Scientific development," so understood, also provides ecological and cultural conditions for human survival and flourishing. The limitation of economic development based on quantified data such as the GDP is fully recognized as inadequate and thoroughly critiqued so that the unintended negative consequences of unrestricted and unregulated growth will be critically examined and evaluated. Indeed, effective measures will be taken to ensure long-term and comprehensive well-being of all people.

In this new political and intellectual climate, fundamental philosophical questions: Why are we here? Who are we? Where did we come from? Where are we going? What is the good life? What ought we to do? loom large in the public discourse in both print and electronic media. Cultural China (including the mainland, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Singapore and the Chinese Diaspora throughout the world) is in a concerted effort to formulate an open, pluralistic, and self-reflective identity. To make sure that this is a realizable dream rather than wishful thinking, philosophy is vitally important for China's self-understanding.



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II. The time is ripe for philosophy to broaden its influence and deepened its self-consciousness as public reasoning, embodied wisdom, and a way of life.

China will provide opportunities for philosophers to address ecological, cultural, social, political, and economic issues from philosophical perspectives that will challenge many of the unexamined economic and geopolitical assumptions and enhance the methodological sophistication of cultural and ecological discussions. Concretely, the 24th Congress can respond to vitally important questions raised by several highly visible annual international conferences such as the Boao Forum in economics, Shanghai Forum in politics, Songyang Forum in culture, and Guiyang Forum in ecology. We are prepared to keep all member societies of FISP informed and engaged from 2013 to 2018.

III. The time is ripe for philosophy to become truly global.

We intend to follow the wholesome cosmopolitan trend of our Congress since 2008 when the spirit of inclusiveness became evident. Our invitation will be extended to Axial-Age civilizations (Greek, Judaic, Hindu, and Chinese), historical traditions (notably Christian, Islamic, Jain, Sikh, Baha'i), forms of spirituality in Africa and indigenous religions, and other newly emerging modes of philosophical inquiries as well as well-established disciplines.

We would like to underscore the significance and importance of dialogue by crossing the divide of all primordial ties: ethnicity, gender, age, language, place, class, faith and others. In addition to the dialogue among civilizations, we cherish the hope that dialogues between science/religion, tradition/modernity, humanities/natural sciences, liberal arts colleges/professional schools, specialized knowledge systems /general awareness, and many other seemingly incompatible dichotomies will enrich our edifying conversation as a whole.

Our commitment is not only to organize a World Congress that will meet the expectations that FISP requires in 2018 but to initiate a process of globalizing philosophy in anticipation of the 24th World Congress here and now.



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- Boao Forum for Asia
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- Nishan Forum on World Civilization
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- **Tu Weiming**, President of the organizing committee WCP2018 CHINA, Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Peking University and Research Professor and Senior Fellow of Asia Center at Harvard University
- **Wang, Bo**, Co-Chair and Secretary General of the organizing committee WCP2018 CHINA, Chair of the Department of Philosophy at Peking University, Professor of Philosophy at Peking University

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Tu Weiming, Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Peking University and Research Professor and Senior Fellow of Asia Center at Harvard University, was born in Kunming and grew up in Taiwan. He received his B.A. from Tunghai University in Taiwan, M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Tu is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1988-), executive member of the Federation of International Philosophical Societies (FISP, 2008-) and a tutelary member of the Institute of International Philosophy (IIP, 2010-).

CO-CHAIR and SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE WCP2018 CHINA

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