



Indian Council of World Affairs
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road
New Delhi

Press Release

on

Third India-China Think-Tanks Forum

(20-21 December, 2018)

The Third India-China Think-Tanks Forum was held at Sapru House in New Delhi on 20-21 December 2018. The Forum was hosted by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), with participation by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). The Forum is a bilateral platform established by a Memorandum of Understanding during the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to China in May 2015. The previous edition of the Forum was hosted by CASS in Beijing in June 2017.

Prof. Gao Peiyong, Vice President, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences led a 20-member delegation to participate in the Forum. ICWA included participants from 20 Think-Tanks, universities and institutions from different parts of India.

Under the theme "*Civilization Connect towards an Asian Century*" the Forum carried out in-depth discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest including: strategic communication and strategic reality; state of global economy and positioning of India and China, social development and challenges facing both countries, and linking people through culture and literature. Discussions were held in a spirit of cordiality and openness.

Experts from both sides opined that the Forum has been successful in promoting mutual understanding and strengthening friendship and cooperation

between the two countries in a short span of time. They highlighted the important role of think-tanks in India-China relations in enhancing meaningful dialogue.

The message from the Foreign Minister of India read out at the inaugural session may be seen as annexure to this release.

The Fourth India-China Think-Tanks Forum will be held in China in 2019.

New Delhi.

December 21, 2018



Annexure:

Message from the External Affairs Minister to the 3rd India-China Think-Tank Forum

I am pleased to know that the third India-China Think-Tanks Forum is being held on 20-21 December 2018 in New Delhi, which is being led by two premier institutes of our countries – the Indian Council of World Affairs on the Indian side and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences on the Chinese side.

Through quality deliberations in its last two editions, this Forum has established itself as a useful framework for regular and continued discussions between our academics and scholars and has enabled them to provide structured advice and recommendations to governments on both sides. These discussions, which are held in the spirit of friendship and openness, have greatly contributed in enhancing mutual trust and understanding between our two countries.

I am happy to note that this edition of the Forum is being held under the theme of "Civilization Connect towards an Asian Century". As we trace back our civilizational bonds and take inspiration from the spirit of mutual learning kindled by our ancient scholars, our belief in the inherent intellectual connect between our two countries is only reinforced. As our relations are deepening and our regional and international role evolving, there are expectations from our two countries to lead Asia and usher in an 'Asian Century'.

This edition of the Forum is being held as an important component of the newly constituted India-China High Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges, which has been established pursuant to the decision taken by Prime

Minister Modi and President Xi Jinping in their Informal Summit in Wuhan in April this year. This underlines the important role of academic and scholarly exchanges in our people-to-people ties.

I am confident that there will be frank and candid deliberations in this Forum and I look forward to seeing productive outcomes emerging from these deliberations. These will be very important policy inputs to further deepen the Closer Developmental Partnership between our two countries.

I extend my best wishes for a very successful holding of the third India-China Think-Tanks Forum.

New Delhi

December 20, 2018

