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The Second Forum for International Education Leaders, 2009 - Strive for Educational Innovation, Cooperation and Development

On the morning of November 14th, the Opening Ceremony of the Second Forum for International Education Leaders (2009) was held at UIBE. Attending were Lu Yucheng, Director of China Overseas-Educated Scholars Development Foundation; Wang Ling Chairperson of UIBE's Council; Shi Jianjun, President of UIBE, vice-president Lin Guijun, and more scholars and guests mostly from the China, USA, Australia, UK, France, and several other countries.

With the theme of "Educational Innovation, Cooperation and Development", gathering brought together scholars, department deans and university presidents.



Apart from the main Forum, 4 Parallel Forums were held in the afternoon. The themes were: Internationalization of Education, Education of Internationalized Human Resources, Elementary Education of Internationalized Human Resources, and Vocational Education respectively.

At the opening ceremony, Dr. Lu Yucheng, Chairman of COSDF, thanked UIBE, including the international exchange department, the international marketing department, SITE, and other related departments, who prepared the Forum. He said, since its founding, the COSDF has taken "innovation and development" as its mission and constantly promoted the cause of overseas-educated scholars.

The First Forum for International Educational Leaders was held in Shenzhen in 2007 explored the issues of international personnel cultivation. This year he proposed exploring "innovation, cooperation and development in international education."



Great changes have taken place in the past two years both in China and abroad, in particular with regards to the

global economic recession. This has given the 2nd Forum for International Education Leaders a more challenging backdrop.

Compared with the last forum, the present Forum is more carefully organized with richer themes and the participation by more like-minded institutions and friends. He believed that there will be more and more educators, entrepreneurs and friends and 2 institutions both at home and abroad that care for the project of international personnel cultivation. We have great confidence in the future of China's cultivation of internationalized talents.

Wang Ling, UIBE's Party Secretary extended her warmest welcome to the distinguished guests. "In the wake of the global economic crisis, the forum should advocate the exploration of solutions in a spirit of Educational Innovation, Cooperation and Development from both a theoretical and a practical point of view in a bid to contribute to global education issues. The purpose of holding this Forum is to build a platform for high-level communication and interaction between education managers from various countries, with a view to conducting in-depth discussions on the opportunities and challenges facing education, seeking development ideas and innovation modes, promoting extensive exchange and in-depth collaboration in a cooperative manner, and advancing the internationalization process of human resources devel-

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opment, so as to explore from a strategic perspective the road of innovation and development in the field of international education.”



During the Main Forum with the theme of Innovation Cooperation Development, we are honored to have the following keynote speakers: Shi

Jianjun, President of UIBE; Pro. Alan Tait, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Open University (UK); Mr. Han Zhen, Vice-president of Beijing Normal University (China); Mr. Samuel Goldman, President of Southern Illinois University Carbondale (USA); Mr. Richard Russell, Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of Adelaide (Australia); Mr. Shi Jianping, Vice President of the Central University of Finance and Economics (China); Mr. Keith F. Taylor, Associate Vice-president Dalhousie University (Canada). The Main Forum was presided over by Lin Guijun, Vice President of UIBE. In his keynote speech, Shi Jianjun, President of UIBE mentioned that in the wake of economic globalization and technical innovation, in the context of ever changing political and economic patterns in the world, and against the background of educational internationalization and informatization, education is facing new opportunities for development. However, these are accompanied by challenges, along with the co-existence of expansion and risks. Innovation and reform in education have become the trend in the development of modern universities. He highlighted three points: Firstly, we should, in an open system, seek to innovate in the development of universities, discussing new approaches to reforms in teaching and education at universities, exploring new ideas and measures for the development of disciplines, studying the mechanism for the provision of internal incentives for scientific research, and urging universities to search for new resources for development. Only when univer-

sities persevere in their innovative endeavors, will ideas be turned into reality.

Secondly, universities should seek cooperation in an open system: with governments, with local regions, with enterprises, with communities, with scientific development zones, with financial institutions, and with foreign universities. Universities should embrace the era of all-round cooperation with a much more open attitude.

Thirdly, universities should seek development brought about by the improvement of science, technology, the economy, and society. Development should be scientific. Universities should not only focus on scale and number, but on the improvement of quality, its own

characteristics and its modernization.

Aiming at putting higher education onto the track of healthy development, so as to play a more and more important role in talents

cultivation, scientific research and social services.

Professor Alan Tait, Pro-Vice Chancellor of The Open University (UK), made a keynote presentation under the title of Making The Open University a Significant Partner of Choice for Employers, in which he discusses a strategy for the development of employer

engagement in a unique Higher Education institution, the Open University. The Open University, as the UK's leading distance learning provider with vast ex-

perience of teaching adult part-time learners at home and in the workplace, is in a unique position to reach those who are already considering studying at university level as well as those who could be encouraged to





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do so by the availability of home or work-based study opportunities. Employer engagement has always been an important element of The Open University's edu-



ca-tional provision and has embraced a wide range of activities: professional training and development, knowledge transfer, research and innovation, and community action. Vice President Han Zhen of Beijing Normal University discussed Adapting to the Trend of Globalization and Promoting the Internationalization of Higher Education. He highlighted his experience of internationalization strategy and the overall goal and course of action of Beijing Normal University in promoting internationalization. He said, "The 21st century is a globalization century. The internationalization of higher education has become an inevitable trend in the context of economic globalization. First-rate universities must take the initiative in cross-cultural understanding and communication, and play an important role in cross-national economic cooperation and development, as well as assume full responsibility in cultivating high-level international talents. As a first-rate university in China, we must broaden our vision, and absorb the advanced educational knowledge from all over the world so that we can improve our international communication and cooperation level."

Professor Samuel Goldman, Chancellor of Southern Illinois University Carbondale (USA), focused on the topic: International Partnerships: Expanding Horizons, Creating Solutions. He began by introducing Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The University is one of only a handful of research universities in Illinois and the only one in the southern half of our state. Today, students from more than 100 countries pursue degrees at the University. They interact with more than 150 international institutions through memorandums of understanding, including

with UIBE and seven other institutions in China. He said, "I am confident that as we visit campuses during this trip, we will discover faculty who are pursuing similar interests. Through dialogue, we hope to learn about your priorities and areas where our combined efforts can lead to even greater contributions for all people. By sharing our resources and our knowledge, by sharing the talents of our faculties and students, we create the future – a future based on mutual respect, collaboration and friendship."

Christopher Findlay, Professor of Economics and Head of School at the University of Adelaide (Australia), also gave a presentation. The University of Adelaide is a comprehensive university, ranked as Australia's



third-largest university. He believed high-level meeting such as this forum, will further strengthen the cooperation between China and abroad. We are faced with the challenge of the

future. For the development of university, one of the most serious problems is to break the boundaries.

The speech by Mr. Shi Jianping, Vice President of the Central University of Finance and Economics (China), was entitled To See the Reform and Innovation in China's Higher Education in the Field of Finance and Economics from the Financial Crisis. There are both challenges and opportunities for higher education during the financial crisis. The financial crisis has brought an unprecedented opportunity for reform to China's higher education. Firstly, for Chinese universities, the financial crisis has the most direct impact on graduate employment. It presents a great challenge to the talents-training model and the quality education of China's higher education institutions. The quality of personnel training between Universities will be



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tested by the market. Secondly, for those higher education institutions which mainly rely on government fiscal allocation, the proactive fiscal policy implemented during the financial crisis makes possible an increase in the funding for education.



Thirdly, employment difficulties prompted more people to improve themselves through higher education, including high-level academic education and continuing education.

Fourthly, the economic restructuring and the improvement of China's international status demand a higher level of talents-training, scientific research and social services in higher education institutions. Fifthly, the financial crisis has provided a good condition for universities to attract high-level international teachers.

Keith Taylor, Associate Vice-president of Dalhousie University (Canada), made a keynote presentation under the title of An Example of International Cooperation in a Joint Program. Building international activities is a key component in Dalhousie's strategic plans. Any student graduating today without a meaningful international experience is under-educated; the region of Canada has a great capacity for, and need for, immigration. Bringing more international students is known to be one of the best sources of highly trained immigrants; without increasing numbers of international students, Dalhousie will actually contract in size; they want key institutions with great capacity for future growth to be strong partners and as partners become more excellent. He also mentioned in a partnership relationship they look for such characteristics as quality leadership, world class academic standards, quality campus and location, upward trajectory and trustworthy team for joint activities.

On the evening of 14th, Nov, the Closing Ceremony and UIBE Evening Show by UIBE's Students Art Troupe.

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