

Speech at “Sino-Australia Forum on Transnational Education and Student Mobility”

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Honorable Ms. Anne Bally, Mr. Nicholas Saunders, Mr. Michael Lavarch, Ms Kate Duff, and distinguished guests,

Good morning!

It's a great pleasure for me and my colleagues to attend today's forum. First, I'd like to express warm congratulations on the opening of the forum on behalf of Division for International Cooperation and Exchange of Ministry of Education.

China has long valued the educational exchange with Australia, which is a key component of the bilateral relationship. Since the reform and opening up of China, China and Australia have kept expanding the communication in collaborative research and student exchange, concerning higher education, basic education and vocational education, etc. In particular, the scale of student exchange has kept growing. With the joint efforts of the education authorities of the two countries, China and Australia signed a landmark agreement in 1986, and signed a mutual agreement of recognition of academic qualifications last year. The newly signed agreement has greatly promoted the student exchange between the two countries, encouraging more Chinese students to study in Australia and more Australian

students to study in China.

In the process of educational exchanges between China and Australia, we are especially concerned about the cooperation in running schools, which is also the main topic of this forum – how to promote and improve the cooperation of two countries in running schools. In the past 30 years, China has experienced puzzles when dealing with cooperatively-run schools, but also has harvested a lot of useful experience. Especially in the past few years, China has made incredible progress in the cooperation of school running, introducing many high-quality foreign educational resources into China. Some world-famous universities have opened branches in China, such as University of Nottingham from Britain, New York University and Duke University from the U.S. At present, the number of Chinese-foreign cooperatively-run educational institutions and programs approved by China has reached over 2000, among which there are 49 institutions of non-independent legal person status that offer bachelor and bachelor above level of High Education academic qualifications. Chinese-foreign cooperation in running schools has promoted educational exchange, enabled Chinese students to have access to high-quality foreign educational resources, broadened their horizon, and improved teaching content and teaching methods. More important, Chinese-foreign cooperation in running schools gives students an opportunity to go out of China and thus strengthens the friendship and mutual understanding between China and other countries. We often say “the successful relationships between countries lie in the communication of their people, and the friendship between people of different countries depends on heart-to-heart understanding”. Therefore, the communication

between students plays an important role in promoting the relationship between China and Australia.

Sino-Australia cooperation in running schools has been developing and expanding. According to statistics, so far there are totally 396 Sino-Australia cooperatively-run educational institutions and programs. I personally believe there is still room for further expansion. At present, the cooperation of school running between China and Australia is only limited to colleges and universities, and the cooperation in the field of vocational and technical education is still very limited. Therefore, I hope this forum will help schools of both parties find the potential and expand the cooperation in the field of vocational and technical education. In this way the Chinese colleges and universities of applied sciences which are faced with transformational construction will have a better chance to understand the teaching methods of Australian universities and learn from their experience so as to nurture more practical talents for China.

“The National Conference of Work on Overseas Study” was held in 2014. This is the first national conference in the 65 years since the liberation of China that attached equal importance to Chinese students going abroad for study and foreign students coming to China for study. The conference was highly valued by the central leadership, and both President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang gave important instructions. In response to problems such as lack of innovation in China, shortage of talents on non-commonly-used languages, smaller number of majors on minor languages than in foreign universities, difficulty in supplying qualified Chinese staff to international institutions, and lack of understanding and research for many regions

in the world, the conference proposed that 5 types of talents should be cultivated in the future – innovative talents, talents who are good at minor languages, talents for international institutions, research talents on international regions and foreign students studying in China. On the other hand, we also hope more excellent foreign students will come to study in China and the influence of China will be enhanced through student exchange. In 2014, 377,000 foreign students came to China to study, including short-term visitors and those who got academic degrees. We hope this number will reach 500,000 in the year of 2020, and among whom 150,000 would be students coming to China to study for academic degrees. We are very glad that Australia is actively involved in our plan of expanding foreign students studying in China. The New Colombo Plan initiated by Australia has set a good example for other western countries. Although only a small number of students will come to China, it can be considered a signal. China will pay particular attention to the implementation of the New Colombo Plan in China and make sure these students stay safe and study well in China.

I'm glad to hear from my Australian friends that the educational exchange between China and Australia has been working very well. The cooperation between the two countries had a wonderful past and is growing steadily now, and I believe it will have a brighter future.

Thank you.

(Audio Transcription)