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## Prof. B R Deepak attends 10<sup>th</sup> Beijing Forum 2013 in Beijing

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Prof. B R Deepak attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Beijing Forum between November 1 and 3, 2013 in Beijing, and presented a paper entitled “Cooperation and Conflict in India-China Relations: Assessing the State of Crisis Management Mechanisms (CMMs)” in the “Regional Cooperation and Conflict: From a Multi-cultural Perspective” Panel consisting of 40 speakers across the globe. Prof. Deepak’s paper was also amongst the few selected and published papers in the Collection of Papers of the Forum.



*Prof. Deepak at 10<sup>th</sup> Beijing forum*

2013 Beijing Forum under the theme of “The Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All: Retrospect and Prospect” embraced seven panel sessions with themes such as “New Type of Great Power Relationship: Opportunities and Challenges”, “Global Engagement & Knowledge sharing in Higher Education”, “Regional Cooperation and Conflict: From a Multicultural Perspective”, “Forty Years of Environmental Protection in China and the World: Retrospect, Prospect and Institutional Innovation”, “Urbanization: Sustainable Planning and Diversity”, “New Hope for Conservation”, and “Water and Sustainable Civilization”. The forum was attended by 456 participants and 16 distinguished guests including Aho Esko, former Prime Minister, Finland; Al Nasser, Nassir

Abdulaziz, UN High Representative for the Alliances of Civilizations; Hao Ping, Vice Minister of Education, PRC; Mahbhubani Kishore, Prof. and Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, and former Permanent Representative of Singapore to the UN; Park In-Kook, President of Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies; Rudd Kevin, Former Prime Minister Australia; Wang Anshun, Mayor of Beijing Municipality; Yeo George Yong Boon, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Singapore and others. The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon and Former US President, Bill Clinton had sent their recorded video messages to the Forum. The opening ceremony was held in Diaoyutai, the State Guest House of the People’s Republic of China on November 1, and rest of the sessions were held in the Yingjie Exchange Centre of the Peking University.

Beijing Forum is held every year under the auspices of the Beijing Municipal Government, endorsed by the State Council of the People’s Republic of China, and co-sponsored by Peking University, the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education and the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies since 2004 with an objective to promote the study of humanities and social sciences in the Asia-Pacific region, with a view to facilitating international academic exchanges and trans-cultural discussions that can lead to the social development and the increased prosperity of the world’s citizens and civilizations. It is for this reason that the general theme of Beijing Forum is “The Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All.” Since 2004, it has witnessed the involvement of a total of over 3,700 participants from 70 countries including noted scholars and well known

politicians such as Nobel laureates Professor Joseph Arrow, Kenneth Douglas North, Amartya Sen, Robert Mundell, Roger Myerson, winner of the United States National Humanities Medal-- Professor Robert Bellah, Founder and President of the Global Ethic Foundation Hans Küng, the former World Bank Senior Vice-President Justin Yifu Lin as well as political figures like the former U.S. President George H. W. Bush, the former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the former President of Republic of India APJ Abdul Kalam, the former Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, the former Prime Minister of Australia Kevin Rudd, Under- Secretary-General of the United Nations Ambassador Joseph Verner Reed, the Princess of Thailand Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, to name just a few.

## CCSEAS China Perspective

### Manmohan Singh's China Visit and the State of India-China Relations

Prof. B R Deepak delivered a lecture on Manmohan Singh's China visit and the current state of India-China Relations. While evaluating the Border Defence Cooperation Agreement, Prof. Deepak maintained that it was another Confidence Building or Crisis Management Mechanism in line of existing mechanisms which was a positive step; however, he also posits that these mechanisms fall short of finding a long-lasting solution of the border issue. It is owing to these mechanisms that India and China have been able to find some real convergence of interests on issues such as climate change, democratization of international financial institutions through multilateral forums like Russia-China-India Strategic Triangle; Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS); Brazil-South Africa-India-China (BASIC); the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF); East Asian Summit (EAS) and G-20. India being an observer country in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and China being in the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) further promotes common interests. He said that both have acknowledged that the global political architecture is undergoing a fundamental transformation with balance of power gradually shifting from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The notion of Nehru's 'resurgent Asia' and Deng Xiaoping's 'Asian Century' seems to hold ground. However, the future of these notions would largely depend on the

relationship between India and China, for the relationship will not only define the contours of new international political order in Asia but also the world at large.

### Prof. Yu Longyu [郁龙余], and Masters Shi Decheng [释德澄] and Shi Huafan [释华梵] in CCSEAS

Prof. Yu Longyu, Director, Centre of Indian Studies, Shenzhen University, Master Shi Decheng and Shi Huafan from the Hangzhou Buddhist Academy, China-- visited the Centre on 11 November 2013 and delivered lectures. Prof. Yu, an eminent Indologist in China and a student of the renowned Indologist-- Padma Bhushan Prof. Ji Xianlin spoke on “中国印度文学交流史” (History of China-India Literary Exchanges), while Master Shi Decheng spoke on “中国佛教: 历史与现状” (Buddhism in China: History and Present Scenario). Prof. Yu's speech touched upon areas such as textual tradition of China, the translations of the Buddhist Sutras in China, influence of Buddhism in China, Indian literature in China, the translation of modern Indian literature in China, contribution of literary giants such as Ji Xianlin, Jin Kemu and Tan Yunshan to furthering the cultural exchanges etc. Master Shi Decheng talked about the history of Buddhism in China right from the Han Dynasty to its glory during Tang Dynasty, its diminishing influence during later dynasties and present scenario. After the lectures, the visitors interacted with students and faculty members of the Centre.



*Prof. Yu Longyu*

## **Prof. B R Deepak delivered keynote address at the First International Conference on Chinese Culture and Asian Values held in Beijing Foreign Studies University**

On an invitation from the Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), Beijing and Hong Kong University, Hong Kong, Professor Deepak attended and delivered a keynote address titled “Sinology in India: Issues and Challenges” during the “First International Symposium on Chinese Culture and Asian Values” held at BFSU Beijing. The Conference, held between 17- 20 October 2013, was attended by over 40 sinologists and diplomats from the Asian countries. Sinology has grown into a sophisticated discipline with diversified opinions on China and its culture. Currently, the most thriving centres of sinology are in the United States, Europe and East Asia.

The Conference was jointly organized by the International Society for Chinese Culture Studies (ISCS), Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) and the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, the University of Hong Kong (SMLC, HKU) and divided into sub themes as 1) the history, personnel and institutions of Chinese studies in Asia; 2) Asian cultural values and the world civilization and 3) the future development of ISCS.



The Conference was the outcome of the “Asianizing” Asia approach of the organizers. It was felt that Sinology has grown into a sophisticated discipline with diversified opinions on China and its culture. To foster Chinese culture studies in a wider Asian region is considered a paradigm shift in China, and welcomed by all Asian countries.

## **Prof. B R Deepak attends “Sinologists and International Cultural Dialogue Forum” (“汉学家与中外文化交流论坛”) in Beijing**

At the invitation of the Ministry of Culture, People’s Republic of China, Prof. Deepak attended the First “Sinologists and China’s International Cultural Exchange” Forum in Beijing and Quanzhou, China between December 2 and 7, 2013. The Forum was attended by 21 Sinologists hailing from 17 countries and hosted by the Ministry of Culture, China and co-organized by the Chinese National Academy of Arts and the Center of International Cultural Exchange of China (CICE). Prof. Deepak represented India at the Forum, read a paper on “India-China Relations: The Role of Cultural Exchanges” on December 3 2013 and delivered one keynote address on “China Studies in India: Challenges and Future Prospects.”



*Prof. Deepak at the first “Sinologists and China’s International Cultural Exchange”*

The inaugural session on 3<sup>rd</sup> December was chaired by Cai Wu, Minister of Culture, PRC, and the second day panel discussion was chaired by the Information Minister and Political Bureau Member Liu Qibao. The Chinese side was represented by eminent scholars from Peking University and Beijing Foreign Studies University along with a galaxy of eminent writers such as Nobel laureate Mo Yan and others like A Lai and Mai Jia.



In his paper Prof. Deepak talked about the centuries old civilizational dialogue between India and China, and how it was held hostage to colonial expansion in Asia at the first instance and then by the cold war mentality of the bipolar world. He emphasised that as the global political architecture has been undergoing a fundamental transformation with balance of power gradually shifting from the Atlantic to Pacific, it is extremely important for India and China to further deepen and broaden the ties comprehensively so as the notion of Nehru’s ‘resurgent Asia’ and Deng Xiaoping’s ‘Asian Century’ dream is realized. The future of these dreams largely depends on the relationship between India and China, for the relationship will not only define the contours of new international political order in Asia but also the world at large, said Prof. Deepak.

In the keynote address on 4 December, Prof. Deepak shed light on the scope and challenges of Chinese language and China studies in India. Prof. Deepak opined that the Indian government has realized the need to strengthen the China studies in India. The resolve is demonstrated in starting Chinese language courses in central universities.

## **Prof. B R Deepak meets PRC’s Minister of Culture, Minister of Information and Nobel laureate Mo Yan**

Prof. B R Deepak met Cai Wu, Minister of Culture, Liu Qibao, Minister of Information and Nobel laureate Mo Yan at the sidelines of the First “Sinologists and China’s International Cultural Exchange” Forum in Beijing and Quanzhou, China between 2-7 December 2013. Prof. Deepak had met Minister Cai during Premier Wen Jiabao’s India visit in 2010 when the latter had an interaction with a select group of Indian and Chinese academicians and cultural figures. During his interaction with Culture Minister, Prof. Deepak talked about greater academic interaction between India and China and the need to undertake joint research in comparative studies

between Indian and Chinese institutions pertaining to a whole range of areas including language, literature and culture.



*Prof. Deepak with H E Cai Wu, Minister of Culture, PRC*

The Ministers encouraged such endeavours and assured of every support. Prof. Deepak also met the Nobel laureate Mo Yan.



*Prof. Deepak with Nobel Laureate Mo Yan*

In his interaction with Mo Yan, Prof. Deepak apprised the laureate about the ongoing “Translation and Publication of Classic and Contemporary Works of India and China” under the aegis of Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of External Affairs, India and the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of the People’s Republic of China signed during the visit of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang to India early this year. Prof Deepak apprised him that for the first time in India his works would be translated from Chinese into Indian languages, hitherto these were rendered from English to Indian languages.

## Faculty Lectures/Seminars

### Jadavpur University Vice-Chancellor invites Prof. P. Mukherji to deliver a lecture

Prof. Priyadarsi Mukherji delivered a lecture titled "**The Chinese Language: A Journey to the Domain of Chinese History and Culture**" on an invitation from the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Souvik Bhattacharya and the School of Languages and Linguistics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata on 28 June 2013. His lecture was attended by a large audience at the Vivekananda Hall. Prof. Mukherji made a power-point presentation on the topic along with the lecture.



*Prof. Priyadarsi Mukherji delivered a lecture at the Jadavpur University, Kolkata on 28 June 2013*

### Confucian Philosophy of Harmony

Prof. Priyadarsi Mukherji presented a paper titled "**A Brief Appreciation of the Concept of Peace and Harmony in the Philosophy of Confucius**" at the Global Peace and Harmony Conference. He also chaired a session beginning with his introduction centering round the correlation between war and peace, justice and injustice, harmony and disharmony, and the interpretation of different phases of history. The conference was organized by JNU and the Global Peace Foundation-India on 21 September 2013.

### India-China-Russia Tri-Cultural Perspective of Folklore

Special Commendation by Vice-Chancellor Prof. S.K. Sopory in his inaugural address

Prof. Priyadarsi Mukherji presented a paper titled "**India-China-Russia Tri-Cultural Perception of Mythical Protagonists in Folktales: A Comparative Analysis**" at the International Conference on "Folklore:

Reinventing Past through Folk Traditions" organized by JNU, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), and ICSSR, 23-25 October 2013. He also chaired a session on the theme of "Various Forms of Folklore across Regions". At his inaugural address at the Folklore Conference, JNU Vice-Chancellor Prof. S.K. Sopory specially mentioned and commended Prof. Mukherji's versatility in dealing with the theme of tri-cultural perspective of folklore, and appreciated the variant folkloristic features embedded in the subject.

### Lu Xun's Critique of Tagore

Prof. B R Deepak presented a paper titled "**Lu Xun's Critique of Tagore: Sardonic Irreverence and Misunderstanding**" at an International Conference on Tagore's Legacy of Inter-cultural Interaction: China, India and Civilizational States, organized by ICS on 8-9 November 2013 in New Delhi. The arguments were constructed on the basis of Lu Xun's references to Tagore in his collected works in Chinese.

### Folklore of tribal people and its impact on shaping the socio-cultural values of Indian youth

Rakesh Kumar, Assistant Professor in CCSEAS attended the Academic Seminar on '**Oral Narratives of the Tribal People in the Twenty- First Century**'-- 28-30 October 2013 held at Central University of Jharkhand, Brambe, Ranchi. He presented a paper titled "**Folklore of tribal people and its impact on shaping the socio-cultural values of Indian youth**".



### Market Economy and its Implication on the Communist Youth League

In the **6<sup>th</sup> All India Conference of China Studies** 12-14 December 2013 held at IIM Kozhikode, Kerala, Rakesh Kumar, Assistant Professor CCSEAS presented a paper titled **“Changing Trends of Political participation of the Chinese Youth in Market Economy and Implication on Communist Youth League”**.



*Rakesh Kumar at the 6<sup>th</sup> All India Conference of Chinese Studies presenting his paper*

## Elements of Indian Culture

Rakesh Kumar delivered a lecture titled **“Elements of Indian Culture”** at Yuanze University, Taoyuan, Taiwan (R.O.C) on 2 January 2014.

## Student Focus

### Prabha Lalwani at the SAARC-China Cultural Forum, Kathmandu, Nepal

The Kathmandu Cultural Forum on the theme of “Cultural Inheritance and Development in the Context of Globalization”--- was held as a part of the 6<sup>th</sup> China Festival in Nepal, jointly organized by the Ministry of Culture of China and the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal from 13- 16 December 2013 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The forum had scholars and officials emphasizing on the importance of cultural inheritance with special emphasis on intangible cultural heritage (ICH), which was of great importance for Ms. Prabha Lalwani, one of the two Indian participants at the forum. This is also the area of her present research. The indigenous people and their culture, in terms of language, dance, music, etc. were also mentioned by the other SAARC country speakers as well as by Prabha. The discussions were quite informative and constructive. The relationships shared by the

countries bilaterally and multilaterally, both in present times and historically were discussed in order to find a better and more efficient way of facing the challenges of cultural heritage under today’s globalization.

The highlight of the forum was the Kathmandu Initiative as an outcome document to fulfil the goal of the forum, with the purpose to take the forum as an opportunity for further promoting cultural exchange and cooperation. Cultural officials, professionals, experts and scholars from the SAARC countries were present in this forum.

Prabha expressed her views thus---“It was indeed a great pleasure for me to attend the first Kathmandu Cultural Forum in Nepal. My experience there was indeed a home away from home, as there is no need for a visa and everyone speaks the same language; it is also the same food and even the same currency. The beautiful scenery and snow- clad mountains were definitely a feast to the eyes. It was also a great pleasure to be able to meet officials and scholars from different countries and various backgrounds, but all having the same goal of preserving cultural heritage. I would especially like to thank the Cultural Division of the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi for giving me this opportunity to be a part of this historic event and I wish the forum every success in future.”



*Prabha Lalwani presenting her paper at the SAARC-China Cultural Forum at Nepal*

## Nishit Kumar presents a paper at a conference on India-Indonesian Bilateral relations

Nishit Kumar, a student of M.A. 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Centre for Chinese & Southeast Asian Studies, SLL & CS, J.N.U, presented a paper, *The Evolution of India-Indonesia Relations: From Ramayana to China* in the recently held International Conference on India-Indonesian Bilateral Ties on 18- 20 November 2013. The conference was organized by the Centre in collaboration with Embassy of Republic of Indonesia and Indian Council for Social Science Research, New Delhi. With the overwhelming participation of Indonesian dignitaries, political thinkers and students from various institutes, the proceedings addressed an array of issues regarding the bilateral relations between both the countries in the domain of politics, economy and culture. Presenting his paper in the Political and Strategic Co-operation panel, Kumar highlighted and envisaged the future implications of joint statement on five initiatives for strengthening the India-Indonesia strategic partnership. Focusing on pertinent maritime issues the presentation emphasized on the Southeast Asian country's role in India's current and future trade relations and regional security.



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