

Welcome Speech given by the Founding Board of Peking University Alumni Association of Germany e.V.

10. Nov. 2013

(President Mrs. Dr. Xiaobing Yang-Benckendorff)

Professor Wu, Zhipan, Vice president of the Peking University,
Representative of Ambassador, Gesandter Botschaftsrat Mr. Dr. Jiang, Feng,
Prof. Dr. Lutz-Bachmann, Vice president of the Goethe University Frankfurt,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Afternoon!

I am extremely honored to have the chance to address you in this prestigious moment when our Alumni Association is formally established and, at the same time, on behalf of the Committee of the Peking University Alumni Association of Germany, I would like to thank you for attending our first annual meeting.

First, I would like to extend our warm welcome to the delegation of the Peking University headed by Professor Wu, who has come all the way from Beijing, to attend this event. We wholeheartedly appreciate the long-time support and trust from Professor Wu!

Of course, we would also like to express our gratitude to the Abteilung für Bildungswesen der Botschaft der Volksrepublik China in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland!

Last but not least, I would like to give our sincere thanks to Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, former vice president, Prof. Dr. Ingwar Ebsen; Paul Hastings, Office Chair, Mr. Dr. Christopher Wolff; Lufthansa, Manager Mr. SHI, Yuewei; Accor Hotel Group, Manager Mrs. GUO, Lihua; the Frankfurt branch of Bank of China and China Book Trading GmbH, General Manager Mr. ZHANG, Genrui; as well as University Augsburg!

(Vice President Mrs. Gu, Yuhua)

Today we are gathering here, right in the Auditorium of Frankfurt University, which reminds us of our student life, younger as we feel. This is what we want. Although we are overseas Chinese, forever our hearts are linked to our alma mater. No one might forget his youth, and his alma mater as well. In this regard, we are eager to establish an own home, an alumni connection platform. I wish

to express sincere gratitude to alumni and friends! Additionally, the ones who made important contribution to the development of our association! They are: Chen Fei, Feng Ying, Hu Da, Shen Lihua, Lu Chunhong, Yao Jingfang, Wang Kai, Mrs. Friederike Schröder, Mrs Katrin Schröder, Mrs Barbara Gieseck. With regard to those we haven't mentioned yet, you have got more chance to make your own contribution in the future.

(Vice President Mr. Li, Zhengjun)

Founded in 1898, Peking University is China's first national university in history and is considered one of the most prestigious universities in the world. This year, Peking University has celebrated her 115th birthday; she has already lapsed three centuries. PKU has a high reputation and status all over the world. There is a metaphor that Peking University is like Harvard in China, and vice versa. In addition, Peking University has not only produced the present Chinese Premier Li, Keqiang, but also leaders of foreign nations, such as the new Ethiopian president elected in October, Mulatu Teshome, who is a former PKU graduate.

(Vice President Mr. Dr. Fang, Yang)

The relationship between Germany and PKU is fruitful and has a long history. As the first batch of messengers, the Former President of PKU, Cai Yuanpei, literary master Ji Xianlin, as well as other Chinese celebrities have studied in Germany. After the reformation and opening process, the first wave of Chinese students went to study abroad. Since then, many PKU alumni came to Germany to study and work. With the development of China, we can see a growing number of German students studying in PKU as well. So far, PKU has established a series of cooperations with schools, companies and with a variety of German universities and research institutions.

With regard to the question of how many PKU alumni are currently in Germany, no one is able to figure it out. However, organizing a PKU alumni association in Germany was indeed a common wish of most alumni here.

(Vice President Mrs. Yu, Fang)

Early this March, thanks to the effort of PKU alumni from all over Germany and the great support from Professor Wu, the preparation work was accomplished within just two weeks. On 25 March, 2013, the Peking University Alumni Association of Germany was officially established in Frankfurt with the election

of first the executive committee.

The members of the Founding Board are Mrs. Dr. Xiaobing Yang-Benckendorff, Mrs. GUYuhua, Mr. LI Zhengjun, Mr. Dr. FANG Yang, Mrs. YU Fang, Mr. Dr. SUN Chengguo, Mr. Dr. ZHOU Shengzong, Mr. ZHANG Genrui and Mrs. SUN Xiao. The Founding Honorary President is Mrs. XU, Jinghua. The Founding Honorary Member is Mr. CHEN, Fei.

After the establishment of our Alumni Association, members of the committee have made their best effort to achieve the goals, actively establishing alumni contacts throughout Germany. They have built our own website, created the association logo, and more importantly, they completed the court registration and tax exemption process. Part of their significant work is also the collaboration between the German Alumni Branch and the General Alumni Association of PKU and the deepening of relations between German universities and PKU. The Spring Gala held in Frankfurt turned out to be a wonderful success.

(Honorary President Mrs. Xu, Jinghua)

As you can see, today is a cold winter Sunday. Everyone from all over the world is gathering at the University of Frankfurt, which fully embodies the strong passion and cohesion underlying PKU! We sincerely hope that through the work of Peking University Alumni Association of Germany, the friendship between alumni will grow into a big family. In this family, we care about each other and help each other. Let's inherit and carry forward the traditional PKU Spirit, that is, patriotism, progress, democracy, and science, with loving memories to our Alma Mater and a bright prospect for the future, composing a new chapter for Peking University Alumni Association of Germany, making our own contribution to our Alma Mater, our motherland, and Germany as the second home to many of us.

(Ms. Sun, Xiao)

Thank you very much!

(Translated by Ms. Hu Da, graduated from PKU in 2012 email: hudahello@126.com)