

Mr Zhang Xinsheng

Doctor of Laws honoris causa

Citation

Mr Zhang Xinsheng, Vice Minister of Education of the People's Republic of China and Chairman of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, studied urban planning at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, where he received his Master's Degree with distinction. Previously, he had completed an Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School. He was also a graduate of China Military Institute of Technology, and of Zhejiang University, China.

Vice Minister Zhang's unique and versatile educational background has imbued him with the quintessence of both Eastern and Western traditions in education, and instilled resourcefulness, vision and a pragmatic work style in his fascinating personality.

It is known to all that education plays a fundamental, pioneering and decisive role in China's modernization drive. As a core member of the Ministry of Education leadership, Vice Minister Zhang is in charge of educational legislation and regulation, as well as international cooperation and exchanges in the field of education. With the conviction that the rule of law in education is pivotal to the success of the Chinese strategies to rejuvenate the nation through science and education and build up a prosperous nation by cultivating top-notch talents, he has participated in the drafting of the laws badly needed in education reform. He was part of the driving force behind the promulgation of the *Law on the Promotion of Private Education* and the *Regulations on Chinese-Foreign Cooperation in Running Schools*, the first of its kind ever enacted for the national work on education in China. He personally led the drafting of the *Procedural Provisions for the Law on the Promotion of Private Education* and headed the drafting of the *Procedural Provisions for the Regulations on Chinese-foreign Cooperation in Running Schools*. For the time being, he is organizing China's new round of initiatives in educational legislation that calls for amending the *Education Law*, the *Compulsory Education Law* and the *Act on Academic Degrees*, as well as the drafting of the *School Law* and the *Law on Educational Examination*.

He attaches great importance to law, and sets even greater store by the popularization and enforcement of law. He often goes down to localities and schools to make studies and investigations, solicit opinions from the grassroots levels, consult experts and scholars, and see how education laws and regulations are implemented. He has demonstrated superb leadership and practical acumen and contributed significantly to the enactment and enforcement of educational laws and regulations in his country.

Vice Minister Zhang is also one of the leaders and advocates of cooperation and exchanges between China and the rest of the world in the field of education. He believes that, based on its close links with the world community, education in China can never make a giant stride forward without enhancing cooperation and exchanges with other nations, and that only through those approaches can Chinese educators gain profound insights into the global trend in education and continuously learn from other nations' valuable experience as well as attracting fine international education resources and scientific research results. With this belief in mind, the vice minister spares no effort in establishing regular work mechanisms for bilateral and multilateral consultations between governments in order to maintain stable, sustainable development in international exchanges in education. Under his leadership, the Ministry of Education has accomplished a great deal in its pioneering efforts, such as mutual recognition of academic degrees and credentials, Chinese-foreign cooperation in running schools in China, the China-US E-Language Learning System, Forum on China-Africa Educational Cooperation, the Chinese-Foreign University Presidents Forum, cooperation between leading Chinese and foreign universities, the teaching of Chinese as a second language for foreigners, regulating on the commercial services for self-funded overseas studies, Sino-Russian and Sino-French and Sino-Japanese education expositions and university presidents forums, establishment of Chinese schools in foreign countries, and promotion for foreign students to study in China.

As president of the China Scholarship Council, Vice Minister Zhang also leads a program to deepen reform of the system for dispatching students and scholars for studies and researches abroad, and endeavors to bring those studying abroad back to serve the country. While devoting himself to expanding China's educational cooperation and exchanges with foreign countries, he relentlessly promotes such cooperation and exchanges between the Mainland and Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. Thanks to the unremitting efforts of the vice minister and his colleagues, educational cooperation and exchanges with other countries have contributed vastly to the cause of education in China.

Vice Minister Zhang is an eminent figure in the world arena. He is a member of the Executive Board of UNESCO, vice president of the International University Sports Federation (FISU), and member of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED). As chairman of the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee held in China, in 2004, he worked with great zest for the conservation of cultural and natural heritage both in China and abroad. That session, chaired by him and attended by representatives from more than 100 countries and regions, has gone down in history as a landmark in world heritage conservation.

An exceptionally affable and modest man, Vice Minister Zhang has a charismatic personality that has won him high prestige and extensive friendship in education, culture, sports, natural and cultural heritage and other international fields of human endeavor. He is of the opinion that, with a key role to play in coping with the challenges of the accelerating economic globalization and knowledge-based economy, education should further develop a global orientation so as to promote global good-neighborliness, peace and development by bringing forth more students who have global perspective and strong international communication abilities.

Vice Minister Zhang's remarkable career includes two consecutive tenures from 1989 to 1997 as mayor of Suzhou, a city known for its venerable cultural tradition. During that period, he advocated quicker and balanced socioeconomic development, and he was also a staunch champion of traditional Chinese culture, bigger opening-up, and the need to assimilate the fruits of all civilizations in the world. To achieve the catch-up and surpass objective and sustainable integrating development in metropolitan Suzhou, the municipal government under his leadership initiated and implemented the innovative strategic plan of "One Body, Two Wings" and "Spreading Along Four Lines". The former means keeping Suzhou's old town intact while developing a hi-tech industrial zone to its west and the Suzhou Industrial Park in cooperation with Singapore Government to its east. While the latter one "Spreading Along Four Lines" means that in order to expand the scale of economy and elevate the added value of the industry, the cities of Zhangjiagang, Changshu, Taicang, Kunshan, Wujiang and Wuxian in metropolitan Suzhou should restructure their economies and upgrade their industries by taking their respective advantages of locations and contexts along the Yangtze River, in close proximity to Shanghai, around the Taihu Lake and along the trunk Shanghai-Nanjing Expressway. The strategy to realize this challenging plan is the "Growth Driven by Opening-up". Today, the Suzhou Industrial Park is hailed widely as a pacesetter for Sino-Singaporean cooperation. Under Mayor Zhang's leadership, Suzhou finally found itself in the front ranks of cities nationwide in terms of economic prowess, the foreign direct investment utilized and the total volume of imports and exports. Much to his credit, Suzhou today is a scene of peace, congeniality, good job opportunities and contented life, and its perfect fusion of yesterday and today never fails to fascinate visitors from around the world.

Dear Mr Chairman, the gentleman who is standing before us is a passionate son of his country and his people. He is magnanimously visionary, open-minded, and cherishes sincere concerns for the world and profound thoughts for diversity in human development. He has contributed enormously to the rule of law in education and international exchanges and cooperation in China's education, and is dedicated to the promotion of mutual understanding, international exchanges and peaceful development. Now, Mr Chairman, may I present Vice Minister Zhang Xinsheng to you for the award of the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

章新勝先生

榮譽法學博士

贊詞

章新勝先生，現任中華人民共和國教育部副部長、中國聯合國教科文組織全國委員會主任。他畢業於美國哈佛大學設計學研究生院，獲城鎮規劃設計學碩士學位和優秀碩士研究生榮譽；此前，他獲美國哈佛大學商學院高級工商管理課程結業文憑。早年，他曾先後畢業於解放軍技術工程學院和中國浙江大學。章新勝先生從東方和西方的教育中，擷取精華，博採眾長，形成了他睿智的思想、寬廣的胸懷和務實的作風。

世人皆知，教育在中國現代化建設中有著基礎性、先導性、全局性的重要地位。章新勝先生作為中國教育部的領導成員之一，主要分管教育法制建設和教育國際合作與交流工作。章新勝先生深信，實施依法治教，是落實中央政府制定的科教興國和人才強國的根本戰略措施。他參與了教育改革急需法規的起草，推動了《民辦教育促進法》和中國第一部關於中外合作辦學的行政法規——《中外合作辦學條例》的出臺，參與完成了《民辦教育促進法實施條例》的制定，並直接領導了《中外合作辦學條例實施辦法》的起草工作。他正在參與組織實施新一輪的教育立法規劃，這項規劃包括修訂中華人民共和國教育法、義務教育法、學位條例等法律，制定學校法、教育考試法等新的教育法律。他重視立法，更重視法規的推行和實施。他經常深入地方和學校調查研究，注意聽取基層的意見和諮詢專家學者，並督促檢查教育法規的落實。他以突出的領導和實踐能力，為中國教育法規的制定和實施做出了重要的貢獻。

章新勝先生也是中國教育國際合作與交流的領導者和推動者之一。他認為，中國已與世界各國建立起緊密的聯繫，中國要通過加強國際教育合作與交流，深刻瞭解世界教育改革與發展的趨勢，不斷借鑒各國有益的辦學經驗，吸收國際優質教育資源和科研成果，為我所用，才能推動中國教育事業跨越式發展。鑒此，他不遺餘力地推進中國與世界主要國家的教育部建立起雙邊或多邊的工作磋商機制，以確保對外教育交流工作穩定、持續發展。同時還在一些開拓性活動方面取得重要進展，如中外學歷學位互認，合作辦學，中美兩國教育部合作開展中美網路語言教學專案，中非教育論壇，中外大學校長論壇，中外名校強項合作，對外漢語教學，自費留學中介規範化，中俄、中法、中日互辦教育展及校長論壇，境外辦學以及來華留學工作等諸多方面。作為國家留學基金委主任，他亦領導了國家公派留學生制度改革的深化與完善，並致力於吸引更多的海外優秀人才回國工作、為國服務。在致力於推動與世界各國的教育合作與交流的同時，章先生十分重視祖國內地和香港、澳門以及臺灣的教育交流與合作。在他和同事們堅持不懈的努力下，教育的國際合作與交流為中國整體教育事業的發展做出了積極的貢獻。

章新勝先生是活躍在國際舞臺的活動家。他是聯合國教科文組織執行局執行委員，世界大學生體育聯合會副主席、中國環境與發展國際合作委員會委員。他當選為第28屆世界遺產委員會主席，以極大的熱情推動世界及中國的遺產保護事業，並成功地主持了在中國召開的被稱為“載入史冊”的、有一百多個國家出席的第28屆世界遺產委員會會議。他在教育、文化、體育、自然和文化遺產等人類共同關注領域的國際活動中，以獨具魅力的個性風格，發揮了特有的影響和建立了廣泛的友誼。他認為，為應對日益加速的經濟全球化和知識經濟的挑戰，教育將發揮關鍵作用，並將更大地面向世界，以培養出更多具有國際眼光和交往能力的人，進而促進人類的和睦相處和世界的和平與發展。

章新勝先生曾在1989年至1997年連任兩屆蘇州市長。他在主政蘇州期間，力主加快經濟社會協調發展，傳承中國文化，擴大對外開放，學習借鑒人類社會的文明成果，以為我所用。為了實現追趕和跨越目標以及可持續地發展，當時的蘇州市創造性地提出並成功地實施了“一體兩翼”和“四沿展開”的城鄉一體的發展戰略規劃和“開放帶動”的戰略方針，即在全面保護蘇州古城的同時，在古城西翼自主建立高新技術產業新區，東側與新加坡合作創辦國際化的蘇州工業園區；在大蘇州市的張家港、常熟、太倉、昆山、吳江和吳縣地區，按沿長江、沿上海周邊、沿太湖和沿滬寧交通幹線的各自區位優勢，調整經濟佈局和產業結構，

以形成因地制宜、各展其長、規模和附加值不斷提升的戰略經濟格局。如今，蘇州工業園區已被兩國政府稱為中新合作典範。今天蘇州經濟實力躍居全國前列，全市利用外資和外貿進出口總額名列大中城市前茅，社會和諧發展，人民安居樂業。今天，蘇州古老文化與現代文明交相輝映的城市魅力和城鄉互動、共同發展的格局，給海內外朋友們留下了難忘的印象。

主席先生，站在我們面前的章新勝先生有著熱愛國家、熱愛民族的熾熱情懷，懷抱世界的開闊胸襟和對人類發展多樣性的深邃思考，為中國教育的法制建設和對外開放事業建樹良多，是致力於推動中外交流和世界和平發展的實踐者，現在，恭請主席先生頒予章新勝先生榮譽法學博士學位。