

Speech by Amb. Pei Yuanying
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Dean Xue, friends, ladies and gentlemen:

First of all, I would like to thank Tsinghua University for inviting me to attend today's important event. I am very pleased to have this opportunity to meet with friends from India, Brazil, Mexico, Egypt and Kenya, to discuss the issues facing emerging economies in a multipolar world. I believe that in the course of this event, I will learn a great deal.

I was fortunate to work in India as China's ambassador to India for more than three years. As Director General of the Policy Research Department of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I have visited Brazil and Mexico. These countries' economic development, social vitality, and their amiable relationship with China have given me a lasting impression. I have not had the opportunity to visit Egypt and Kenya, but I have often read information about both places, and their achievements in various fields are very admirable.

That was during the nineties. Today, the world has entered a new era - the era of multi-polarization and globalization. Peace and development are the characteristics of this era; dialogue and cooperation are the norm of international relations. Mankind now has unprecedented opportunities, but also faces many tough challenges. The topics we will be discussing - agriculture, food security, technological innovation, energy and climate change- play an important part in the problems that they face. How to solve these problems: it is a question related to the quality of human life and the future of the world. Especially for emerging economies as well as all developing countries, this is even more vital. Therefore, it is an important task ahead of us to discuss the current situation, share experiences, identify the sources of the problems, and find solutions. I believe that the work between countries, at different levels and through various channels, will not only benefit emerging economies and other developing countries, but also assist mankind's pursuit of a better future.

Today's world is compelled to recognize a welcomed change: as emerging economies and developing countries continue to grow, their international status has also grown, their voice in the international arena has been amplified, and their role in the international arena has increased prominently. Reform of the existing international financial, and political-economic order, promoting peace and development, and responding to the challenges the world faces today are all common needs of the emerging economies and developing countries. Working on equal footing, through mutual cooperation and solidarity, is the best path to solving global challenges. In this regard, behalf of developing nations, emerging economies have made an outstanding contribution. The previous G20 summit, as well as the recent summit in Cannes, are powerful examples.

Now, please let me provide a brief review of Sino-Indian relations, as an example to illustrate that on the path towards friendly relations between developing countries, there is no obstacle that cannot be eliminated, and that it is possible to cooperate in good faith and to obtain mutually beneficial results.

As we all know, there was a period of cold relations on the border between China and India. But this was only a brief period of over 2000 years of friendly exchange between China and India. In the 1990s, the two countries signed two agreements related to protecting the border area's peace and tranquility. Since then, the Sino-Indian border has been quiet. Border differences should not hinder the development of bilateral relations, this was consensually recognized by both sides.

In recent years, Sino-Indian relations, based on the Five Principles jointly advocated by the two countries, has experienced a rapid and healthy growth, and led to the establishment of a strategic partnership. There have been high level exchanges between the two countries, increased exchanges between people, as well as increased cooperation in trade, science and technology, culture, journalism, and other fields. For example, bilateral trade volume in 2010 exceeded 60 billion USD, 30 times the volume in 2000. And both countries have a cooperative relationship at the United Nations (for example in the Security Council, the World Climate Conference, etc.), the G20, BRIC meetings, Sino-Russian-Indian affairs and other international organizations and multilateral organizations.

How did China and India overcome obstacles and develop a smooth relationship? I believe it is due to the following reasons: the two countries have a long history of friendly exchanges, both countries have experienced foreign aggression and oppression, and they have similar destinies. Both are developing nations, today both have developing economies tasked with a large number of challenges; and, on international issues, both have the same or similar views and ideas. These commonalities far exceed the differences between the two countries, and have provided a solid foundation for friendship and cooperation. History and the present have proven that China and India are not rivals but partners. As the two largest developing nations, Sino-Indian cooperation is bound to promote world peace and prosperity.

Therefore, I am optimistic about the prospects for the development of Sino-Indian relations, and for relations with other emerging economies and developing countries. Moreover, I am full of hope about the prospects for China's relationship with other countries as well. No matter how different another country may be from China, I believe that we can still build a mutually beneficial relationship, because China's diplomatic philosophy is to build long-lasting peace, common prosperity, and a harmonious world.

Thank you!