

**Address at the Second LAC-China Policy and Knowledge Summit  
Leadership and Capacity Building for Public Sector Executives**

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Distinguished Vice Minister Paola Hidalgo and Permanent Secretary  
Denzil Thorp,  
Distinguished Vice President Huang Haotao,  
Distinguished foreign diplomatic envoys of Latin American and  
Caribbean countries to China,  
Dear scholars and guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning!

On the occasion of the opening of the *Second LAC-China Policy and Knowledge Summit*, on behalf of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), please allow me to extend our warm welcome to representatives and guests of Latin America and Caribbean countries coming from afar, and express our sincere appreciation for Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for co-hosting this summit.

The convening of this summit is in the background that international political and economic situation continues to undergo profound changes, overall cooperation between China and Latin America & the Caribbean region has made breakthrough, and China's Belt and Road Initiative has got universal attention and positive response from the international community. Against this background, CASS is willing to cooperate more closely with IDB, and continue to deepen knowledge exchange and policy dialogue with Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) countries.

There is a long history of deep traditional friendship between China and LAC countries. For a long time, China and LAC countries have always been caring and supporting each other in the process of fighting for national liberation, safeguarding national sovereignty and building a modern country. China, as a developing country, and LAC countries have common demands on a series of major international issues, and hold same or similar positions on major issues such as international political,

economic and financial system reform, climate change, global governance, sustainable development, and maintaining the interests of developing countries etc.

China and LAC countries are at an important stage of modernization. Some LAC countries have a longer history of industrialization and urbanization than China. They have made great achievements in the process of realizing industrialization and modernization; however, they have also encountered many difficulties and setbacks, from which many lessons have been learned. In the process of achieving modernization, China and LAC countries have experienced historical tests respectively, and also got a lot of valuable development experiences.

Over 30 years ago, China started to implement the reform and opening up, and the country entered a rapid development period of realizing industrialization, urbanization and modernization. In 1978, when the reform and opening-up policy was just implemented, China was still in a very difficult and backward state. Accordance to the exchange rate of US dollar in 1978, China's per capita GDP was only \$155. At that time, the per capita GDP of African countries to the south of Sahara except South Africa was \$492. After over 30 years of reform and opening up, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, Chinese people have striven hard along the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and made unremitting exploration to achieve significant changes of China. For over 30 years, as a country with the largest population in the world, China has achieved an average annual economic growth rate of over 9%. China's economic and social development has witnessed great leap forward. At present, China's economic aggregate ranks the second place in the world.

Around China's development experience and development mode, 10 years ago, some western scholars published a report entitled Beijing Consensus, studying China's development experience and summarizing the characteristics of China's development path. Since then, the enthusiasm of worldwide discussion on China's road and mode has increased. From then on, China has successfully hosted Beijing Olympics Games and Shanghai World Expo, which has deeply impressed the world. In the meantime, China has also experienced the test of the world financial crisis after 2008, and maintained social stability and rapid economic development. China's road and mode have got more and more attention and recognition by the international community. We know that China's road is still in the exploring period, and China still faces many challenges in the future, for which we need to continue working on the road of modernization. However, it cannot be denied that a new

development path with Chinese characteristics has been initially formed. China has gained much development experience, among which the experience of country and social governance is especially valuable.

At the beginning of this year, President Xi Jinping pointed out: from ancient time to the present, most social unrests and regime changes may be attributed to failure of forming an effective state governance system and capacity of governance. Without an effective governing system and governance capacity, social contradictions and problems cannot be effectively resolved, and social contradictions and problems accumulated over a long period of time will inevitably lead to serious political consequences.

According to the new situation and problems of domestic and international economic and social development and summing up the development experience of China, President Xi Jinping has proposed a strategic plan of “Four Comprehensives”, which includes “building a moderately prosperous society”, “deepening reform”, “governing the country according to law”, and “enforcing strict party discipline”. The “Four Comprehensives” reflects the broad connotation of China’s state governance system at present stage, which is the basic idea and framework of the Communist Party of China and Government of China to govern the country for a period of time in the future.

Leadership and capacity building for public sector executives is an important content of the improvement of governance capacity and realization of modernization of the state governance system, and it is of very important research value and practical significance for the *Second LAC-China Policy and Knowledge Summit* to make this as its theme. I believe that focusing on the theme of this summit, participants of the two sides have much experience to learn from each other. I hope all the participants and scholars will make good use of this precious opportunity to exchange views fully and gain fruitfully.

Chinese Academy of Social Sciences is the national highest academic research institution on humanities and social sciences and also an important think tank. CASS has 39 research institutes, with over 4000 experts and scholars who work hard for the prosperity and development of China’s philosophy and social sciences, and give suggestions for China’s reform and opening up.

CASS attaches great importance to the study of the development experience of LAC countries. The *Second LAC-China Policy and*

*Knowledge Summit*, co-hosted by CASS and IDB, provides an important platform for strengthening academic exchange and cooperation and enhancing mutual learning of governance experience between China and LAC countries. We sincerely hope that this platform of exchange and cooperation will achieve greater success and make new contributions to promoting friendly and cooperative relations between China and LAC countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

September is the golden season in Beijing with high sky, light cloud and cool autumn breeze. I wish friends coming from afar have a pleasant and fruitful stay in China. Wish the summit a great success.

Thank you.