

Concluding Remarks

Fang Ning

Director General, Institute of Political Science
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)

Good morning! I'm not going to conclude, I think it's too early to draw a conclusion for our meeting, since there is future. I'm very glad to have this opportunity to share my feelings and experiences here.

During the past one and a half days, just like Ms. Joan Underwood said, how time flies. This summit has gathered representatives of Inter-American Development Bank, senior officials from Ecuador, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Chile, Columbia, Peru, the Caribbean region and World Bank, experts of international organizations, head of well-known enterprises, and Chinese participants including heads of three think tanks of China, leaders of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Party School of the Central Committee of C.P.C and Chinese Academy of Governance, experts and scholars of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Party School of the Central Committee of C.P.C, Tsinghua University, Peking University and Renmin University of China, as well as leaders of local authorities. I believe it is a rewarding trip for all of us who attend this summit.

The theme of this summit is Leadership and Capacity Building of Senior Executives. We've had comprehensive and in-depth discussion on this issue, concerning structure of senior executives, their incentive and guarantee mechanism, supervision mechanism, talent selection, professional career, training, and official exchanges. This is from individual perspective of senior executives.

From an institutional perspective, we've had exchanges on the assessment of our governmental performance, allocation of administrative resources etc. These issues are quite realistic, which require urgent solution in the important process of social development.

From my point of view, there are three prominent and profound characteristics.

The first one is about the structure of our participants. We are neither having empty talks, nor confining ourselves merely to facts as they are. Among us, there are not only executives and practitioners with practical experiences, experts of international organizations engaged in related work for years, but also scholars who specialize in relevant theoretical research. With both practical experience and vision of theory, I think it's a very rare opportunity to communicate on such a stage with broad international experiences. We also appreciate the hosts of this summit and this great era which make us so lucky to have this opportunity to discuss issues of development of human society at such a level. I believe our communication and study will surely be helpful to our cause and to the well-being of people from all countries in the process of modernization.

The second distinct characteristic is my personal feeling, that is the similarity of our issues. Although we have differences in terms of national conditions, development stage, institutional backgrounds, and even history and culture, I think it doesn't obstruct or mean that we cannot have comparative study or mutual exchange and learning.

On the contrary, what has impressed me deeply is the similarity of issues behind the differences. We truly feel that there are so much and big comparability among us. The inherent mechanism and contradiction of issues, our thinking towards these issues, even our focuses are so close that we really should introduce the way of comparative study to our thinking towards issues, and more to our academic research.

During the summit, I have a deep feeling. I've never been to Latin America and the Caribbean region. Just now what many friends talked about are matters on the other side of the earth. There's a saying in America: a child likes digging in the ground, and someone tells him not to dig anymore, otherwise he'll dig to China. This shows that China seems so distant in American's mind. Our study tells that if we dig vertically from China through the geocenter, we'll not reach America, but Argentina instead. The two countries are just located at the two sides of the earth. The more distant we are, the more similar issues we have. Isn't it more attractive? So we find problems from differences, seek regularity from repetition, which is the essence of our comparative study. If we see so many problems of concern, the more distant and strange we are, the more important and enlightening our mutual learning and exchange is.

The third one is my overall impression of the summit. We have listened to presentations, and we will see with our own eyes. A Chinese proverb says “Seeing is believing”, which is a method called *Operation on-the-spot* in political science and methodology terms contributed by our neighbor Japanese friends. Our experience tells that on-site feelings are sought for academic research and writings are completed at the desk. In other words, without perceptual knowledge, there’ll be no rational knowledge, or the rational knowledge is what we thought, heard, viewed, rather thankfully experienced by heart. However, I believe the upcoming visit and field trip to the Future Science and Technology City of Changping and Shanghai Pudong New Area will be highly inspiring to our practitioners and experts. We hope so and we also hope to have more opportunities like this.

At last, I’d like to talk about vision. We wish to continue providing platforms for our friends, brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean region to understand China and to promote traditional friendly relations and cooperation between peoples of China, Latin America and the Caribbean region. We wish to make our due contribution in this regard.

We also hope that our study will be helpful, effective and productive, and it should not just be a beautiful vase.

In the end, on behalf of the Institute of Political Science (CASS), and the hosts of this summit and myself, please allow me to express heartfelt thanks to all those who have worked efficiently for the success of this summit. They have shown us a volunteer spirit, which is quite worth valuing in the busy society. So I would like to suggest that all of us applaud to express our thanks and gratitude to them for their hard work and dedication.

Thank you.