

Remarks by Vice Premier Ma Kai at the Ceremony of the Chinese Government Friendship Award

(September 29, 2016)

Distinguished Experts,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

The People's Republic of China will soon celebrate its 67th anniversary. On this joyful occasion, we are holding this grand award ceremony to confer the Chinese Government Friendship Award to 50 foreign experts from 18 countries. This award is the highest award issued by the Chinese government to honor foreign experts working in China. On behalf of the Chinese government, I wish to extend warm congratulations to the award winners, cordial greetings to their families, and heartfelt thanks to all the foreign experts and friends for their care and support, as well as their participation in China's reform and development.

Foreign experts working in China are close friends of the Chinese people. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China over 60 years ago, especially since the reform and opening-up, a large number of foreign experts have dedicated themselves to China's modernization drive and played a significant role in promoting China's economic and social development and deepening exchanges and cooperation between China and the rest of the world. In recent years, the number of foreign experts

working in China increased to over 600,000 every year. They are working in different parts of China and in various fields such as economy, technology, science, education, culture and health. They have helped tackle technical and managerial difficulties and trained a large number of local people of various professions, thus making great contribution to China's reform and development. We are delighted to see that foreign experts have established profound friendship with the Chinese people through exchanges and cooperation. Moreover, we have already regarded you as part of the big family of China and you have also taken China as your second home. This valuable spiritual wealth will encourage us to forge ahead hand in hand.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are facing a complicated economic situation this year, both internationally and domestically. In spite of this, the Chinese government has adapted to the new normal of economic development, upheld the guideline of growing economy while maintaining stability, expanded the aggregate demand appropriately, advanced the supply-side structural reform, and addressed challenges and risks effectively. In the first half of the year, China's economy maintained a stable performance on the whole. With 6.7% of GDP growth, we have managed the economic growth within a proper range and ranked among the best performing major economies of the world. 7,170,000 new urban jobs were created, accomplishing 71.1% of this year's target. With faster growth of emerging industries, innovative

technologies and new business types, businesses began to recover and people's livelihoods improved continuously. Chinese people have made arduous efforts to accomplish all these goals and tasks, but foreign experts' active participation and support were also essential for all these achievements.

Now China is in the process of implementing the *Outline of the 13th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development*. Guided by the vision of pursuing innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, we will continue to regard development as our top priority, take improving the quality and efficiency of development as the central task, focus on supply-side structural reform, expand effective supply, meet effective demand, cultivate mechanisms and developing modes catering to the new normal of economic development, complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects as planned, and strive for the Chinese dream of great renewal of the Chinese nation.

China's development brings opportunities to the world. The Chinese government warmly welcomes foreign experts to China working side by side with Chinese people to create a better future.

We welcome your active participation in China's innovative development. Innovation is the primary driver for development. To deepen the implementation of innovation-driven development strategy, we are promoting such major initiatives as Made in China 2025,

Internet plus and mass entrepreneurship and innovation. We sincerely hope more foreign experts will participate in China's innovative practices, give full play of their talent and wisdom and deliver more innovative results.

We welcome your active participation in China's coordinated development. Coordinated development is a pressing issue that needs to be addressed in China. We are deepening the implementation of the Overall Strategy for Regional Development, promoting development strategies such as the Belt and Road initiative, the integrated development of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei, and the development of the Yangtze River Economic Zone. We sincerely hope more foreign experts will participate in the development of the central and western regions and less developed areas of China, offer thoughts and suggestions and play an important role in promoting China's coordinated, integrated and common development and narrowing regional development gaps.

We welcome your active participation in China's green development. Making development green is a major requisite for sustainable development. The Chinese government is committed to the basic policy of resource conservation and environmental protection, and will pursue a development path that ensures higher levels of production, better living standards and a sound ecosystem. We hope more foreign experts will provide technical assistance in achieving circular economy, resource conservation and efficiency and

in putting place a modern energy system, and contribute more wisdom and strength to the building of a beautiful country.

We welcome your active participation in China's open development. China's door will open even wider to the world. In order to develop a higher level open economy, we will continue to adhere to the win-win strategy of opening up, focus both on “coming in” and “going global”, and attract capital as well as talents. We sincerely hope more experts will continue to play the role as bridges and ties to promote strategic mutual trust, economic and trade cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges between China and the world, and advance China's integration with the world based on mutually beneficial cooperation between China and other countries.

We welcome your active participation in China's shared development. Development for the people, relying on the people, and results shared by the people are principles that we pursue consistently. We sincerely hope more experts will widely participate in our work of reducing poverty, improving education quality, promoting employment, advancing social security system, and building a healthy China. We hope to see your further contribution to enhancing the well-being of our people's livelihood.

“To attract phoenix, nest shall be built. To attract butterfly, flower needs to blossom.” China will adopt more active, open, and effective policies for attracting talents, improve the permanent residence

system for foreigners, relax conditions for skilled and technical talents to acquire permanent residency. We will continue to improve efficient management and convenient services for overseas talents' work, entry and exit, and residence in China. We have recently integrated *foreign experts work permit* and *alien employment license* into *foreigner's work permit*. We will further improve the working and living conditions for foreign experts, effectively protect their legitimate rights and interests, and create a more favorable environment for them to pursue their career in China.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Friendship helps build the bridge for cooperation, and undertaking paves the road for development. Let's join hands to make the flower of friendship even more colorful and the tree of undertakings more flourishing!

In conclusion, I wish all of you good health, happiness in family, and every success in your work.

Thank you!