



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

Opening Remarks

By

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VICE-CHANCELLOR

KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

Chinese New Year Celebration

4th February, 2016

- + Minister Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Kenya – Mr. Jiang Peng;**
- + Our Distinguished Guests;**
- + Director Confucius Studies-Dr. Kamau Wango;**
- + Staff;**
- + Students**
- + Ladies & Gentlemen.**

Good Morning.

I am very pleased to be here with you this morning as part of this celebration of the Chinese New Year. This is of course the most important Festival in the Chinese calendar. This year, 2016, is the year of the Monkey.

It is good to observe a new year named after an animal that every Kenyan is familiar with and that the Chinese zodiac is in line with a symbol which we can all relate.

With the theme of this year's celebration being "Kenya meets China", it serves as a good platform for cultural exchange between Kenya and The People's Republic of China. I also note in this

regard, the presence of the Counselor of the Embassy of The Peoples' Republic of China whose presence is testimony to the good relations between Kenyatta University and the Chinese Embassy as well as the cordial bilateral relations between our two countries.

The New Year for the community – the Spring Festival – is a joyous time for you all, as it is for the more than one billion Chinese in China and the vast Chinese Diaspora throughout the world.

This Confucius Institute is named after a great Chinese teacher and philosopher “Confucius” who preached harmonious relationships that would result in greater peace in the world. Kenyatta University is happy to be associated with this great Chinese Teacher and Philosopher. In KU we strive to relate with other cultures as much as possible, China being a good example.

The Confucius Institute Headquarters (HANBAN) has been very supportive in all activities at the Confucius Institute. Apart from the teaching of the Chinese language to Kenyan students, the Institute acts as a platform for cultural exchange. With the various cultural activities and festivals such as this, our knowledge of Chinese Culture has greatly increased, we have made many friends and for this we are very grateful. This relationship is a reflection of the wider China /Kenya relationship that has mutually benefited both countries immensely. A case in point is the Thika Superhighway and the Kenyatta University Teaching, Research and Referral Hospital which has now been completed. Kenya is set to gain from the transfer of technical knowledge and the Chinese work ethics.

I also note with a lot of pleasure the good work of the Chinese and local directors who have continued steering the Institute to greater heights. The Chinese lecturers and volunteer teachers are also doing a good job and I encourage them to continue doing so. I also urge them to make as many Kenyan friends as possible so that their Kenyan experience can be rich and fulfilling.

Kenyatta University will continue supporting the activities of the Confucius Institute to ensure that its goals and objectives are achieved. This will undoubtedly contribute to continued good relations between Kenya and the People's Republic of China.

To the visiting primary and secondary schools, continue studying Chinese as a foreign language. This will help you in future as you join the employment sector and will give you an international outlook to opportunities. Also work hard in school and strive to join Kenyatta University for your further studies. Karibu Kenyatta University and enjoy your day here today.

Thank you.