

# **International Academic Symposium on Xi Jinping Thought on Culture**

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***Promoting Cultural Prosperity through Mutual  
Learning among Civilizations: A Perspective Inspired  
by Xi Jinping Thought on Culture and Civilization***

**Koh King Kee**

**President, Centre for New Inclusive Asia**

Distinguished Guests, Dear Friends,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening to everyone!

It is a great honor for me to address this forum on the theme, “Promoting Cultural Prosperity through Mutual Learning among Civilizations”. This is not merely a question of culture—it is a question of humanity’s future.

In our rapidly changing world, cultures and civilizations are no longer distant neighbors. They are immediate companions, sharing the same global home, facing the same global challenges, and holding the same shared aspirations for peace, development, and human dignity.

I would like to take this opportunity to explore this theme through the lens of Xi Jinping’s Thought on Culture and Civilization, which offers a rich vision for how humanity can live together in harmony, drawing on the wisdom of all civilizations.

## **The Foundation: Understanding Cultural Diversity as Humanity's Shared Wealth**

President Xi Jinping has stressed that “Civilizations are colorful because of exchanges, and rich because of mutual learning.” This statement reflects a profound truth: diversity is not an obstacle to unity—it is the very foundation of it.

Throughout history, civilizations have developed unique worldviews, moral systems, and artistic traditions. Yet no civilization has ever grown in isolation. The Silk Road, for example, was not only a trade route for silk and porcelain—it was a bridge for the exchange of religions, philosophies, music, and languages.

In today's era of unprecedented global interconnection, President Xi emphasizes that we must respect the diversity of civilizations, treat them as equals, and allow each to flourish in its own way. This perspective rejects cultural superiority and affirms that there is no “one-size-fits-all” model for human progress.

## **The Challenge: Confronting Narrow-Mindedness and Cultural Hegemony**

Yet, while globalization has brought cultures closer, it has also intensified certain dangers. Cultural homogenization, driven by monopolized narratives and dominant media platforms, threatens to erase smaller cultural voices.

As President Xi has warned, “No civilization is superior to others; all civilizations are equal in value.” Attempts to impose one civilization's values on others will only lead to misunderstanding, mistrust, and even conflict.

We must reject the false choice between modernity and cultural identity. To be modern does not mean to be Western; to preserve tradition does not mean to reject innovation. True cultural prosperity comes when every civilization can stand tall, confident in its heritage while open to the beauty of others.

## **The Path Forward: Mutual Learning as a Driver of Cultural Prosperity**

The key to this is mutual learning—an idea President Xi has articulated as the foundation for building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Mutual learning is not a one-way export or import of culture. It is an equal dialogue, where each civilization gives and receives. It involves:

- Respect – acknowledging the intrinsic worth of every cultural tradition.
- Openness – being willing to learn, adapt, and absorb the strengths of others.

- Innovation – using cultural exchange as a spark for new ideas in art, governance, technology, and education.

In practice, this could mean cooperative archaeological projects, joint film productions, university exchange programs, and global platforms for intangible cultural heritage.

### **The Role of China: Initiatives for Global Cultural Exchange**

Under President Xi’s leadership, China has proposed and advanced major initiatives that embody this philosophy:

1. The Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations – bringing together leaders, scholars, and artists to share ideas and celebrate Asia’s diversity.
2. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) – not just an economic network, but also a cultural bridge connecting people through arts festivals, academic exchanges, and tourism cooperation.
3. Cultural Silk Road Programs – revitalizing historical routes with modern exchanges in literature, performing arts, and museum collaborations.

These initiatives reflect the belief that development without cultural exchange is incomplete, and prosperity without mutual respect is unsustainable.

### **A Vision for the Future: Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind**

President Xi’s vision of a community with a shared future for mankind is not only a geopolitical idea—it is a civilizational one. It asks us to look beyond immediate economic or political gains and see ourselves as part of a long continuum of human history.

In this vision, promoting cultural prosperity through mutual learning becomes a moral duty. It calls on us to:

- Preserve and pass on the essence of our own cultures.
- Learn with humility from the achievements of other civilizations.
- Work together to solve global problems—climate change, poverty, inequality—by drawing on diverse cultural wisdoms.

As President Xi has said, “Civilizations can learn from each other to make up for their own shortcomings, and together they can drive the progress of human civilization.”

## **Practical Recommendations for the International Community**

If we are to turn this vision into reality, I propose the following:

1. **Create More Platforms for Civilizational Dialogue** – Forums like this one should expand, including youth, grassroots communities, and cultural practitioners.
2. **Integrate Cultural Cooperation into Development Projects** – Infrastructure should be paired with cultural programs that foster people-to-people ties.
3. **Leverage Digital Technology for Cultural Preservation** – Virtual museums, AI-assisted translation, and digital archives can democratize access to cultural treasures.
4. **Support Multilingual Communication** – To understand each other, we must hear each other in our own languages.
5. **Protect Intangible Cultural Heritage** – Traditional crafts, music, and rituals are as important as physical monuments.

### **Conclusion: A Call to Action**

Friends, the world today is at a crossroads. We face global challenges that no single nation or civilization can solve alone. In such a time, cultural arrogance and division will only deepen the crises we face.

Let us instead choose mutual respect, mutual learning, and mutual enrichment. Let us remember that cultural diversity is not a barrier to human unity—it is the source of our collective strength.

As President Xi has noted: “If civilizations are to flourish, they must engage in exchanges and mutual learning.”

Let us walk this path together. Let us preserve the beauty of our past, enrich the vitality of our present, and empower the hope of our future—so that generations to come will inherit not a fractured world, but a shared home, vibrant with the colors of every civilization.

Thank you.