

Science, Technology and Human Rights
—— **Collected Papers of**
2022 China-Europe Seminar on Human Rights

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Foreword

—— Opening speech from Dr. Heinz Fischer*

Distinguished Vice President Xu Xianming,

Distinguished Vice President Li Junru,

Distinguished Party Secretary Li Yuan Yuan,

Distinguished Ambassador Li Xiaosi,

Distinguished Ambassador Andreas Riecken,

Human rights are an important guiding principle for the global community of states. Even before the founding of the new People's Republic of China in 1949, Mao Zedong, in his article "On the Coalition Government" published on April 24, 1945 welcomed the conference in San Francisco for the founding of the United Nations and sent Deng Biu as his representative - later acting president of China- to attend the founding ceremony. That was an early commitment to the United Nations Charter as well as to human rights issues enshrined in the UN Charter.

I was able to see the development of human rights in China with my own eyes my first trip to China was in 1974 and at the end of 1976 I again went to China with a delegation of Austria-China Friendship Association (ÖGCF) led by Austrian Minister of Justice Christian

* Dr. Heinz Fischer, former president of the Republic of Austria, President of the Austria-Chinese Friendship Association. This foreword is Dr. Heinz Fischer' opening speech at the 2022 China-Europe Seminar on Human Rights. The seminar was hosted by China Society for Human Rights Studies and Austria-China Friendship Association, and organized by the Institute for Human Rights Law of Huazhong University of Science and Technology (National Human Rights Education and Training Base) in Wuhan, China.

Broda. It was even more gratifying that in 1979 the ÖGCF succeeded in inviting the first Chinese delegation of law scholars to Austria, which was the first Chinese delegation of this kind permitted to travel to a Western country. This delegation, organized by the Law Research Institute of the Chinese Academy and headed by Professor Han Jutung, visited many judicial institutions and had numerous professional meetings and discussions. We are proud that this visit has contributed to the human rights debate in China. U Dajing, a famous constitutional lawyer and a member of the delegation, wrote articles in Chinese law journals after his return, which emanated from a universality of human rights.

In 1981, ÖGCF in cooperation with Chinese and European partner organizations held the first symposium on Chinese Law in Vienna and in the next years a series of ÖGCF activities and publications from our Austrian Institute for China and Southeast Asia Studies associated with ÖGCF followed. On the occasion of the United Nations Human Rights Conference in Vienna, we met the delegates of China Society for Human Rights Studies headed by Vice Minister Liu Huatschiu and had fruitful discussions. As a result, ÖGCF sent representatives to attend symposiums in Beijing organized by the China Society for Human Rights Studies, including a former Austrian minister of justice.

Our cooperation with China received a dynamic boost through personal contacts with the Secretary General of China Society for Human Rights Studies Lu Guangschin in Beijing, who introduced to us Prof. Wang Xigen from Human Rights Research Center of the Huatschung University of Science and Technology in Wuhan.

Since then I had the honor to open two large international symposiums

on Human Rights in Vienna, jointly organized with the China Society for Human Rights Studies and the Human Rights Research Center of Huatschung University in 2016 and 2018, and an international online symposium in 2020, the results of which have been published in three books.

As we all know, we are living in a rapidly changing and developing world. Internet, big data and artificial intelligence have changed our lives and bring us new challenges and opportunities, including in the field of the protection of human rights. It is very important to share ideas, strengthen communication and promote mutual understanding between all countries in the world.

We appreciate the initiative and efforts of China Society for Human Rights Studies and the Law School of Huatschung University of Science and Technology proposing to jointly hold the present 2022 China-Europe Symposium on Science & Technology and Human Rights. I am very happy to see that about 50 experts from Asia, Europe, Africa and America will speak at this conference, discussing new exciting issues shared by mankind.

I am sure that there will be different opinions in the wide field of practicing human rights, but I am convinced that this symposium will lead to more mutual understanding and cooperation. Meanwhile, I am looking forward to reading the publication of the collected papers of our joint symposium.

I wish this important confernece every success, which it really deserves!

2022 China-Europe Seminar on Human Rights Opening Ceremony

Opening Speech from Mr. LI Yuanyuan*

Distinguished Leaders,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In May, Wuhan is full of flowers and enthusiasm. Yuanyuan at Huazhong University of Science and Technology is full of green and energy. The China-Europe Seminar on Human Rights, hosted by the China Society for Human Rights Studies and Austria-China Friendship Association and organized by the Institute of Human Rights Law of Huazhong University of Science and Technology and Austria-China Law Association, is holding at Huazhong University of Science and Technology in a combination of online and offline mode. On behalf of the Huazhong University of Science and Technology, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the China Society for Human Rights Studies and Austria-China Friendship Association for their guidance and support. I would like

* Mr. LI Yuanyuan, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, Secretary of the CPC Committee at Huazhong University of Science and Technology. This is Mr. LI Yuanyuan' opening speech at the 2022 China-Europe Seminar on Human Rights. The seminar was hosted by China Society for Human Rights Studies and Austria-China Friendship Association, and organized by the Institute for Human Rights Law of Huazhong University of Science and Technology (National Human Rights Education and Training Base) in Wuhan, China.

to extend my most sincere welcome to all the participants at home and abroad.

The theme of this seminar is “Science, Technology and Human Rights”. This is in line with the current development of international human rights cause. “Science & Technology” and “Human Rights” are inseparable. In President Xi’s congratulatory letter to the Wuzhen Summit of the World Internet Conference in 2021, he proposed that at present, the century changes in the world are intertwined with the century epidemic; there is an urgent need for international communities to follow the trend of IT, network and intelligent development, to seize opportunities and to overcome challenges.

Under the current tide of high technology, we should pay attention to the role of scientific and technological development in promoting the development of human rights, further shape the concept of “science and technology for good”, uphold and promote the common values of mankind, and enrich the diversity of human civilization.

According to the “2021 Digital Economy Report”, released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as an economic and strategic resource, digital and data are playing an increasingly important role, this trend should be reinforced by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the era of big data, it is worthy to research on the protection of citizens’ basic rights. The development of human rights is always on the road. Therefore, this seminar is timely and necessary.

Huazhong University of Science and Technology, as a key

comprehensive university directly under the Ministry of Education, is one of the first batch of national “double first-class” universities. This year is the 70th anniversary of the founding of our university. In the past 70 years, our university has been adhering to the educational philosophy of “educating people oriented, dare to innovation, act with responsibilities”, promoting the integration of humanities education and science education, and making outstanding achievements in education and scientific research. Up to now, the university has 20 disciplines ranked in the top 1% of ESI worldwide, 6 disciplines ranked in the top 1‰ and 1 discipline ranked in the top 1 ‰.

As the organizer of the Seminar, the Institute of Human Rights Law of Huazhong University of Science and Technology is an interdisciplinary University-level independent entity platform formally established by integrating the human rights research resources of the whole university. The institute adheres to the unification of Chinese characteristics and international vision, the combination of cross-integration and highlighting advantages, the connection between theoretical research and publicity and education. The institute interprets the theoretical system of human rights with Chinese characteristics and contributes Chinese values, Chinese experience and Chinese wisdom to the construction of human rights in the world.

After more than 20 years of careful accumulation, eight major fields have been formed, including human rights research with Chinese characteristics; research on the right to development; scientific and technological innovation and human rights; public health and human rights; economic, social, cultural and environmental rights;

civil and political rights; creative communication of Chinese human rights stories and human rights education. In order to strengthen research cooperation with European countries, the Institute established the European Research Centre in Vienna, Austria, in June 2019. In December 2020, the Institute was approved as a National Human Rights Education and Training Base. The institute has established a legal education system on human rights covering undergraduate, masters and doctoral students, and has achieved fruitful research results. The institute has established long-term friendly and cooperative relations with the United Nations Human Rights Council, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Global Water Partnership, and other world-renowned universities such as the University of Oxford and the University of California, making contributions in sharing China's experience with the world and promoting the modernization of the global governance system.

The 2022·China-Europe Seminar on Human Rights has important significance in enhancing mutual understanding between China and Europe on human rights and promoting the common development of human rights in China and in Europe. In the era of globalization, mankind is faced with many common problems that need to be answered through exchanges and mutual learning. In line with the development of the Times, the seminar meets the new requirements of enhancing civilization exchanges and strengthening closer friendship and cooperation. The seminar also provides an important platform for in-depth exchanges and dialogue between experts and scholars in the field of human rights, this will contribute to greater understanding, mutual respect and common progress.

Finally, I wish this seminar a complete success. Thank you!

Opening Speech from Mr. XU Xianming*

**Distinguished Former President of the Republic of Austria
Heinz Fischer,**

**Distinguished Austrian Ambassador to China Mr. Andreas
Riechen,**

Distinguished Chinese Ambassador to Austria Mr. LI Xiaosi,

Distinguished Party Secretary LI Yuan Yuan,

Ladies, Gentlemen and Friends,

The China-Europe Seminar on Human Rights, hosted by the China Society for Human Rights Studies and Austria-China Friendship Association and organized by the Institute of Human Rights Law of Huazhong University of Science and Technology and Austria-China Law Association, is opening in Wuhan and Vienna in this wonderful May. I am very glad to meet new friends and old friends in the field of human rights from China and Europe online. On behalf of the Procuratorial and Judicial Committee of the National People's Congress and the China Society for Human Rights Studies, I would like to extend my sincere welcome to all the

* Mr. XU Xianming, Member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Vice Chairman of Supervision and Justice Committee of the National People's Congress, and Vice President of China Society for Human Rights Studies. This is Mr. Xu Xianming' opening speech at the 2022 China-Europe Seminar on Human Rights. The seminar was hosted by China Society for Human Rights Studies and Austria-China Friendship Association, and organized by the Institute for Human Rights Law of Huazhong University of Science and Technology (National Human Rights Education and Training Base) in Wuhan, China.

guests.

The Seminar focuses on the discussions and exchanges on science, technology and human rights, which is vital important for consolidating the common wisdom and strength from China and Europe, strengthening the promotion and protection of science, technology and human rights, promoting global human rights governance by science and technology, and enhancing the well-being. Scientific and technological progress is an important power for promoting the development of human rights. Science and technology could provide conditions for the realization of human rights. Science and technology could also give rise to some new human rights. Meanwhile, human rights process can provide ethical guidance and value choices for science and technology. The relationship between science & technology and human rights should be mutually reinforcing, promoting and complementing.

President Xi pointed out that science and technology is a valuable tool for a Country, countries depend on it to become strong, enterprises rely on it to win, people rely on it to live a good life. With the development of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, science and technology are developing in a coordinated way with economic, society, culture, ecology and rule of law. It provides a guarantee for promoting economic growth, global governance, challenges such as major epidemics, climate change and natural disasters. Especially, since the outbreak of COVID-19, information technology, intelligence, digital technology and digital economy have played an important role in supporting the fight against COVID-19 and the resumption of production, which has become a favourable support for civil,

economic, social and cultural rights.

Science and Technology is a double-edged sword, which is not only a valuable tool for development, but also a source of risks. On the one hand, the development of science and technology improves people's lives and promotes human rights protection; on the other hand, it brings about a series of human rights problems, such as privacy protection, intellectual property protection, information answer, accurate push, social intensification and Internet hatred. To realize the comprehensive development and positive interaction between science, technology and human rights is an important guarantee for improving people's quality of life, promoting human happiness and harmony, and accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in all countries. It is also an essential part of better promoting the development of human rights.

Ladies and gentlemen, respecting and safeguarding human rights is the unremitting pursuit of the Communist Party of China, the Communist Party of China led the Chinese people have made remarkable achievements in national construction and development and people's living standards improvements by hard struggle for a long time. China and Chinese people achieved the goal of building a well-off society in an all-round way, historically solved the absolute poverty problem, which had plagued the Chinese nation for 5000 years. We are on the new 'journey' to comprehensively build a modern socialist country, laying a more solid material foundation for the development of human rights cause in China.

Since the 18th Congress of the CPC National Congress, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade XI Jinping at the core adhere

to regard respecting and protecting human rights as an important issue in the country's governance. The CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core adhere to respect people oriented, proceed from China's reality, regard right to life and right to development as the first and foremost human rights, protect human right by law, actively participate in global human rights governance. These show a human rights development path that conforms to the trend of the Times and suits China's national condition. On 26th February 2022, President XI presided over a group study for the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, its main theme was respect and protect human rights. This was the first time in the century-long history of the CPC and the 73-year history of the People's Republic of China that the CPC attaches greater importance to the respect and protection of human rights and consciously regards it as its core governing philosophy. After the group study, President XI delivered an important speech that the contemporary concept of human rights has taken shape. Practice has proved that the contemporary Chinese view on human rights and China's human rights development path have not only support the human rights of the people in China have made unprecedented progress, and they have also made great contributions to the human rights cause in the world and the global human rights governance.

In advancing the cause of human rights development, China has been paying great attention to the role of science and technology innovation, and actively promoting the balance between scientific and technological innovation and human rights development. China has been giving full play to the amplifying and multiplying effect of the Internet of Things, digital economy, intelligence on economic

growth, and making up this force for the benefit of people's living standards and human rights improvement. China has been actively promoting the transformation of scientific and technological achievements, fostering new momentum of economic development, strengthening the protection of intellectual property rights, shaping science and technology for good. China has been adhering to absorb technology development into the orbit of legal system development.

In order to protect human rights by the rule of law, the "Civil Code of the People's Republic of China", the "Personal Information Protection Law of the People's Republic of China" and "Cybersecurity Law of the People's Republic of China" have been issued in China, minimizing the problems of data security, personal information and privacy leakage brought by digital development. China has actively participated in the international cooperation in science and technology, deeply participated in global science and technology governance, made science and technology better contribute to the well-being of mankind, and made greater contribution to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

China has made four historical changes in IPR protection. Firstly, moving passive protection to active protection. Secondly, shifting traditional intellectual property protection to modern intellectual property protection, for instance integrated circuits protection, new materials protection, new patents protection. Thirdly, changing loose protection to comprehensive and strict protection, and significantly increasing penalties for IPR infringement. Fourth, changing

administrative protection as a main way to judicial protection as a main way. The judicial system has set up three special intellectual property courts in Guangzhou, Shanghai and Beijing, as well as several intellectual property tribunals. The historical changes in the protection of intellectual property rights vividly illustrate the intersection of science, technology and human rights.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends, China-Europe Seminar on Human Rights was successfully held six times. The seminars pay much attention to the discussion and communication on human rights issue and propose many valuable opinions and suggestions. This plays an irreplaceable role in the understanding on human rights issue and the exchange of mutual learning between China and Europe. This April, President Xi met President of the European Council Mr. Michel and President of the European Commission Ms. Von der Leyen online. President Xi stressed that as two civilizations that promote the progress of human beings, China and Europe should work together to meet global challenges. In the face of severe challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, biodiversity loss, regional conflicts, terrorism, unilateralism and poverty, China and Europe should uphold genuine multilateralism and strengthen cooperation in various fields.