
‘There are Things We Have To Do Together’
by Dr. Xing Jijun

Dr. Xing is a Counselor and Head of the Science and Technology Section of the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China in New York. He spoke about the progress in China’s space program and the economic transformation of China over recent decades—but transcending these specifics, he emphasized the change in thinking, in human identity, which is now required from people all over the world—such that we can all live together, cooperate, and progress into the future. The following are edited excerpts from his presentation.



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A half-century ago, a great moment was accomplished by three astronauts from NASA. Their action created a great moment, which of course belongs to the three of them, and to the American people—but not only. It also belongs to all human beings. Our Chinese people belong to this, and even today, this week, also in China, we are having a lot of activities and events to celebrate, and to commemorate this great moment. It’s a great pleasure for me and my colleagues from the Chinese Consulate General to be present here today. We were asked to provide some remarks about China’s space program. And later, we will share with you a very short video to introduce the Chinese space program and activities.

Before that, I would like to say a few words: As

human beings we really want to share with everyone a lot of things that we have already done, and what we need to do and have to do in the future together. People talk about a “space race”—and of course, whenever you’re talking about a “race,” you think about competition. Well, competition is very important, for the market, for many things, but *cooperation* is also important. Especially for space exploration; without *cooperation*, success will not be possible.

These three American astronauts were supported by many thousands of people, in NASA and in other fields. They did their pioneering job, but for further exploration of space, we should mobilize all peoples to join in. We face a lot of challenges, many challenges. The first challenge is that we have to change our mindset—that’s my understanding. I have three points to bring up. The first: We should be friendly to all people on this Earth, on our planet. We should be friendly to nearby people and to the people far away. Simply by doing that, you make people happy, because no matter where you go, when you are friendly to people, people are then, likewise, friendly to you. This is mutual benefit.

Secondly, we should respect knowledge, science, and research, because without knowledge, without research and innovation, it will be impossible for us to go into space, to go to the Moon, or to go to Mars.

The third point is: it’s very important to be optimistic about the future. People have already mentioned this many times in our discussion today. With people working together, with people-to-people discussion of their scientific advances and technological developments, we are all sure to have a great future.

Taking these three points together, we see that as human beings, we are all the same. If someone from outer space were to come here, they wouldn’t care about your color, or whether you’re tall or you’re short. We are all human beings to them. If a problem arose, they wouldn’t care whether you were from China or from the U.S.A. So, only when we work together, can we can strengthen the capacity to conquer any challenges that come from anywhere.

There is a dream in force in China, a space dream: We want to work together with our international colleagues, especially with our colleagues in the U.S.A., to explore things outside our Earth, even beyond the Moon. We have already sent our rover to the far side of the Moon, and this year, there are some more initia-

tives, and in a few years, hopefully, we’ll go from Earth to Mars.

So when I talk about the Chinese dream of space, that dream goes back long, long ago. We have stories, fairy tales, a lot of stories about a beautiful girl who wants to find a lover, who longs to go somewhere else to have a better life, to go to the Moon or beyond. There are so many stories. We have learned much from such stories. That is the driving force for China to work together with other people, and to do many more such things.
