

**Speech on the Launch Ceremony of Confucius Institute  
at Makerere University**

(Makerere University, 19 December, 2014)

H.E. Edward Ssekandi, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda,  
Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu, Vice-Chancellor, Makerere University,  
Prof. Zhang Jing, President of the University Board, Xiangtan  
University,

Dear teachers and students,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening! It is my great pleasure to attend the Launch Ceremony of the Confucius Institute at Makerere University. On behalf of the Chinese Embassy, I would like to convey my sincere greetings and congratulations to all teachers and students at Makerere University, and express my heartfelt gratitude to all Ugandan and Chinese friends who spent so much efforts in the preparation of the establishment of Confucius Institute in Uganda!

This evening, we are here to witness the first Confucius Institute in Uganda, which is jointly built by Makerere University and Xiang Tan

Universty. This is a historical moment in the history of China-Uganda bilateral relations. As you know, Confucius is a great thinker and educator who lived more than two thousand years ago in China and still respected and admired by Chinese nowadays. The teachings and values of Confucius is one of the most important sources of the great Chinese civilization and Chinese culture. Named after Confucius, the Institute not only symbolizes the distinctive Chinese culture, but also has the responsibility on enhancing cultural exchanges and people-to-people friendship. Since 2004, 471 Confucius Institutes and 730 Confucius Classrooms have been established around world, with a total of more than 1 million students. The first Confucius Institute in Africa was established in Nairobi, Kenya in 2005. 42 Confucius Institutes have been established in 29 African countries by October, 2014, Confucius Institutes have become an important bridge for African people to learn Chinese language and Chinese culture.

China-Africa trade volume is now around USD200billion, and the China-Uganda bilateral trade is about USD500million. The cooperation between China and Uganda in the field of trade, investment, etc. has been largely expanded in recent years. A lot of Chinese companies are engaged in infrastructure construction in Uganda, for instance, CCCC is now building the Entebbe-Kampala Expressway, Karuma and Isimba dam are being constructed by Sino-Hydro and CWE respectively. Chinese government provided financial support to the projects mentioned above. In addition,

CNOOC is engaged in the oil industry in the Lake Albert, which also provided scholarship for some Ugandan students to study in China. With the fast development of China-Uganda, more and more Ugandans visit and study in China, and many Chinese choose Uganda as their destinations travel and investment. The demand for learning Chinese and understanding Chinese culture among Ugandans is increasing in recent years. The establishment of the Confucius Institute at Makerere University will provide a great platform for local Ugandans to better understand Chinese culture.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

China is now the second largest economic power in the world, and Chinese products can be found in every part of the world. The success of the Chinese people has its root in the Chinese culture. The values we Chinese believe such as "no pay no gain", "harmony is precious", "respect for rituals and cultures" etc. can be found in every Chinese success story. When developing relations with Africa, Chinese government is now holding the principle of "sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith", which also comes from Chinese culture. As we Chinese people cherish our own culture and tradition, African people also preserve their culture very well. Some values we believe can also be found in African culture. For example, there is an African proverb which states that "The one who asks questions doesn't lose his way", while Chinese people believe that one has to be not

ashamed of to ask and learn of his inferiors to become a real master. Many similar values exist in both Chinese and African cultures. I hope the Chinese teachers of Confucius Institute at Makerere University shall not only teach Chinese language but also become cultural messengers for both Chinese and Ugandan people. When you teach Ugandans Chinese language, do not forget to learn Ugandan culture and introduce it to your Chinese friends in Uganda and China.

Makerere University is one of the most famous Universities in Africa, and many famous Ugandan and African leaders once studied here. Xiang Tan University is one of the best universities in China, and Xiang Tan is the hometown of our great leader Chairman Mao Zedong. I believe through the joint efforts of both universities, the Confucius Institute at Makerere University will achieve great success in the future and become a milestone in the cultural exchange between our two countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Christmas is coming, and I think Confucius Institute at Marererere University is the best Christmas gift for everybody. On behalf of the Chinese Embassy in Uganda, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere greetings and best wishes to you and your families. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thank you!