



中国人民对外友好协会

THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION FOR
FRIENDSHIP WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

April 10, 2020

Dear Friends,

I'm hereby informing you that His Excellency Mr. Lin Songtian, the former Chinese Ambassador to South Africa, is succeeding me as the president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. I will conclude my 45 years' service in CPAFFC with joy and start to enjoy my retirement life.

Forty-five years ago, my father suggested that I consider working for CPAFFC. Back then, he told me that being together with friends from around the world would brighten up my life. He was nothing but spot on. Over the past 45 years, I made a lot of friends worldwide. You have turned my life fuller and happier, and because of you, I have come to realize that devoting my life to world peace and human progress is the most valuable asset I can ever achieve.

Upon waving goodbye to CPAFFC, I would like to say *Thank You* to all from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for your unswerving support to China and for your profound friendship towards the Chinese people. You have always been pillars to the work of CPAFFC, and my incentive to enhance people-to-people friendship. My heart will always be with you, and our friendship will pass on.

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During the past 45 years, the world has gone through enormous changes. On one hand, it is heartening to witness the tremendous progress humanity has achieved, thanks to globalization and the advancements of science and technology. While on the other, we are faced with mounting global challenges arising from non-traditional security issues, such as climate change and viral outbreak. I am especially concerned about rising populism and isolationism at this critical moment of tackling global challenges. Self-serving remarks and actions at the expense of other people's interests are being magnified by some opinion leaders in major countries. This indicates there is still a long way to go before we can achieve mutual understanding and trust and foster win-win cooperation among different countries and peoples. I sincerely hope that you will continue your firm support to people-to-people friendship cause, maintain sound cooperation with Ambassador Lin Songtian and other colleagues of CPAFFC, and strive for a more peaceful and prosperous world.

More than ten centuries ago, *Wang Bo*, a Chinese poet from Tang Dynasty, wrote to his friends at their farewell: *Despite being separated afar, bosom friends stay close like neighbors*. I believe that my life in the coming years won't be lonely with all the sweet memories left in my mind as well as your friendship and best wishes stored in my heart. I wish you all the best, and *Auld Lang Syne!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized Chinese characters. The characters appear to be '李小林' (Li Xiaolin).

Li Xiaolin