

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

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Dear Colleagues,

A bit over a year ago, at the initiative of ThinkChina (in particular, Professor Jørgen Delman, and coordinator Martin Bech) and with the enthusiastic support of a number of Chinese scholars at our university, the idea of forming a China Staff Association (CSA) came to fruition at its launch event. The event on November 26, 2015 was attended by more than 80 colleagues. Among the participants were our pro-rector, the political counselor from the Chinese Embassy in Denmark, and a representative from Copenhagen Capacity, who all contributed to the panel discussion. I myself was asked to be the first chair of the CSA, mostly to add a “mature” voice in the committee consisting of mostly younger scholars (although I am not sure if I have succeeded in meeting that expectation).

At the launch event and the subsequent committee meetings, the purposes of the CSA are defined as: to bring together scholars of Chinese origin and/or with ties to China across the faculties of University of Copenhagen, to organize different activities and events on a "by scholars for scholars basis", for nurturing and accommodating the different interests among the membership; and by doing so, to enrich the professional and social life of our members so that they can better serve our university and the societies at large.

At this first anniversary of our association, let me first briefly recap the major activities that we have organized under the CSA in relation to these purposes.

Four major events have been organized/planned since the launch event, including the one today. The first such event, taken place on March 3, 2016, was a [Career Enhancement Panel Discussion \(职业发展论坛\)](#), with two internal speakers (Associate Professor Mingshi Yang and Assistant Professor Wen Xiang) speaking on career path and choices in academia, and two external speakers (from Huawei Denmark and Novo Nordisk) talking about career opportunities in industries. The second event, held on May 19, 2016, focuses on [Research Funding](#), with presentations by senior speakers from the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation and Chinese Embassy. Professor Peder Andersen, who served on various Danish research councils, also made a presentation about funding and careers in the Danish research environment. This event was also doubled as a Spring Gathering for the participants. Our third event is mainly a social event to welcome the arrivals of new Chinese PhDs and Postdocs to our university, on the occasion of the [Mid-Autumn Festival](#), in September 2016. Aside from the social gathering and sharing of food and mooncakes from Beijing, we were also very fortunate to get two outstanding presentations from



Professor Leif Horsfelt Skibsted and Assistant Professor Zhang Yang, on Denmark's and our university's contributions to sciences, and about an unusual path to become a researcher in a major research university, respectively.

Today, December 8, to celebrate our first anniversary, we put together a program focusing on [innovation and entrepreneurship](#), with presentations from UCPH's tech transfer office, and three industrial partners (Innovation House China-Denmark, UMORE Group, and Infuser).

In each of these events, we have tried to blend a topical discussion with social gathering. It seems that this format has worked well so far. In addition to these major events, the CSA has also been involved in several *ad hoc* arrangements, mostly with visiting delegations from China. On those occasions, CSA members were informed through our social media such as Wechat (微信) and a few of us were able to meet up with delegations such as those from Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute (江苏省产业技术研究院), Northwest A&F University, and Anhui Association for Science and Technology (安徽省科协). Incidentally, our Wechat group has also become a very useful platform for our members to exchange ideas on many practical matters.

Looking ahead, we will continue the momentum built in this first year to organize events to serve the membership of the CSA. For the initial success to be sustainable, it is our hope that our members can carry on with their active participations in our events, and more importantly to help setting the agenda of the CSA, for example by suggesting ideas of future events, by contributing to the organization of various activities, by serving as members of the CSA steering committee.

In the coming year, in addition to organizing several major events, the CSA committee will work on formalizing CSA's organizational structures, including how the committee is to be formed and how its leadership is to be determined. In that connection, I will step down as the CSA's first chair towards the end of 2017, and at that time we shall have a structure in place where the voluntary work of the chairmanship can be conducted by another colleague without interruption.

Another important task we would like to undertake in 2017 is to identify potential sources for raising operational income to fund the events of the CSA. In the past year, we have relied on the generous support from ThinkChina to run our events. The steering committee is discussing possibilities to raise funds from relevant foundations. Comments and suggestion on whether and how funds can be applied/raised are certainly welcome. Please direct your thoughts on this to me (wusheng@ifro.ku.dk) and Martin Bech (mb@thinkchina.dk).



Let me close this newsletter by thanking you all for the enthusiastic support in the past year. I would also take this opportunity to thank my colleagues in the steering committee for voluntarily contributing their time and efforts to make the various events possible in the past year. We have also been very fortunate to be able to secure support and cooperation from various partners/professors within our university, the Chinese Embassy, our various industrial and governmental partners, who have contributed to our events in many valuable ways. Last but certainly not the least, let me also point out the most important support from ThinkChina, and on an individual basis the support from Professr Jørgen Delman, Martin Bech, and his assistants Lisa and now Thomas. Without their support, we could not possibly make the CSA a reality.

On behalf of the CSA steering committee, I wish you a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing you next year.

Sincerely yours,

Wusheng Yu