

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 18, 2013

I send greetings to the American and Chinese delegations and all those attending the fourth round of the United States-China Consultation on People-to-People Exchange (CPE). And I extend my thanks to President Xi Jinping, Vice Premier Liu Yandong, and the entire Chinese delegation for their support of and participation in this year's CPE.

The United States welcomes the continuing peaceful rise of China. China's success is in the United States of America's interest because a peaceful, prosperous, and stable China is not only good for the Chinese people, but also for the world. President Xi and I have discussed how to build a new model of relations between our two countries, defined by increased practical cooperation and constructive management of differences.

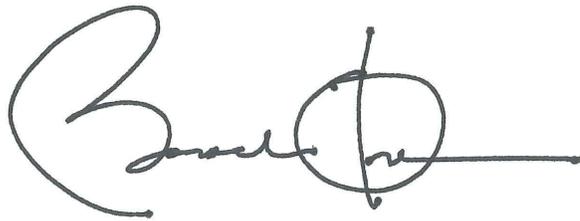
Continuous, candid communication is essential to this shared effort. Through consistent high-level meetings between our countries, the United States and China are building a framework for effective dialogue. The Chinese and American peoples want a strong, cooperative relationship, and it is in our interest to work together to meet the global challenges we face. Meetings like the CPE build on the foundation for a new model of cooperation between our peoples.

In 2010, Vice Premier Liu Yandong and then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton launched the first CPE in Beijing to facilitate people-to-people exchanges between the United States and China and to highlight the benefits of our relationship for our citizens. Since that time, our nations have worked together to create dozens of new exchange programs that have brought together American and Chinese citizens from all walks of life.

Through the U.S.-China Women's Leadership Exchange and Dialogue (Women LEAD) program, the CPE has promoted ongoing communication between American and Chinese women leaders on issues ranging from employment rights to philanthropy. Since the fall of 2012, playwrights in China and the United States have collaborated virtually to stage eight live-stream theater performances in Shanghai and Iowa City, simultaneously. Astronomy students from Hong Kong and California came together this year to explore the differences and commonalities in Western and Chinese space exploration. The United States

dispatched world-class athletes with physical disabilities as Sports Envoys to Guangzhou to promote inclusion and adaptation for youth with disabilities—including young women and girls. And since its launch this year, the 100,000 Strong Foundation continues to work to increase the number of American students learning Chinese and studying in China.

The world is looking to the United States and China to work together to solve pressing challenges, and there is great potential for athletic, cultural, and scientific exchanges to help solve problems for the benefit of all. By improving and expanding ties between the people of our two countries, the CPE is providing critical gateways to important solutions. As you continue to promote and build people-to-people bonds between our countries, I wish you all the best for an enjoyable, productive event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style. The signature is centered on the page.