



“The Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”

Words of Welcome

by

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Your Excellency Prof. Xu Kuangdi,
Mr. Liu Haiyan,
Capt. Wei Jiafu,
Vice President Dr. Constancio,
Mr Li Dongrong,
President Maystadt,
First Mayor Ahlhaus,
Members of the German Bundestag and the Hamburg Parliament,
Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps,
dear speakers of this conference,
Ladies and Gentlemen!

In my capacity as Chairman of the “Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”, I first of all like to thank President Horch, First Mayor Ahlhaus and Mr Liu Haiyan, representing our Co-Host, the China Federation of Industrial Economics, for their words of welcome.

Dear First Mayor Ahlhaus, we are very grateful to you for the tremendous support the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg has given to us in the whole process of organizing this conference.

Dear Mr Liu, it is a great honour for us to welcome the CFIE as our Co-Host!

The cooperation between CFIE and our Chamber is “China meets Europe” in itself! Never before, so many high-ranking Chinese business men and women participated in the “Hamburg Summit”. We are thankful for this and yes, we are also proud of this, since it proves the appreciation of the Chinese economy for the “Hamburg Summit”.

We are more than grateful to you for all your support to make this conference happen!

And, last but not least, I also like to thank our more than 30 sponsors and more than 10 partners, especially Montblanc as our Platinum Sponsor, for their endeavors. We could not be without you!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

during the third “Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe” in 2008, we called upon the audience to build a bridge between China and Europe which could carry our common challenges.

The challenge which hit us right after the “Hamburg Summit” was a great one and needed a strong bridge indeed!

The crash of the Lehmann Brothers Bank happened on Monday after the last “Hamburg Summit” – just after all speakers and participants had gone home.

The Lehman crash opened a “black hole” which not only dragged in the world economy but also absorbed huge amounts of one of the best qualities of human beings: optimism!

Influenced by negative headlines all around the world we almost did not realise that our bridge was strong enough to carry our weights.

A few bricks might have fallen off but the crisis could not shake the fundament of the bridge.

Indeed, it was strong enough to carry us all the way through the crisis to today’s fourth “Hamburg Summit”!

Have we learned our lessons?

The future will tell.

China has become the engine of the world economy and the EU still suffers from monetary problems in some of its member states. The crisis has contributed to a power shift towards China. And we have all reasons to welcome this development!

A stronger China and a stronger cooperation between Europe and China can offer new markets and bring more chances for business.

So, Ladies and Gentleman,
Our optimism is back on track!

In this mood, I now have the honour and the pleasure to officially declare the fourth “Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe” open and give the floor to Dr. Theo Sommer, who will lead us through the Opening Session.

Dear Dr. Sommer, the floor is yours.