

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Lutz, Director, World Population Program

9 October 2020

Dear Prof. Zhang Wenhong,

In my function as Founding Director of the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital, as Director of the World Population Program of the IIASA (International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis) and as head of the newly established Department of Demography of the University of Vienna, it is my great pleasure to extend sincere congratulations at the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the School of Sociology and Political Sciences at the University of Shanghai.

Over the years SSPS has gained a great reputation as a center of excellence not only within China but also internationally. As a demographer myself and as past Secretary General of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) I am particularly happy that the University of Shanghai has taken the initiative to establish the Asian Demographic Research Institute (ADRI) which over the few years of its existence has already become one of the leading centers of demographic research on Asia.

I am deeply honored to have the opportunity of chairing the International Scientific Advisory Board of ADRI and hence know its strengths and the highest-level research conducted in it first-hand.

More than 20 years ago I had initiated the establishment of the Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Research as a collaboration between the National University of Singapore, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok and my own institute IIASA together with a dozen of other demographic centers across Asia. Over the years this MetaCentre as held a large number of important conferences, training workshops and highly visible publications on Asian demography. I am very happy that recently ADRI has not only joined the groups of Principles of this MetaCentre but also agreed to function as headquarters of this most important pan-Asian research activity in demography.

IIASA will remain a key partner of ADRI in this enterprise and I personally will try to support the excellent work of ADRI as much as I can. Since China is also one of the most important member countries of IIASA with many established research links not only in demography but also in the environmental sciences I do hope that Shanghai University will play an important role in further strengthening the link between China and IIASA.

Again, with all the best wishes for your Anniversary celebrations.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'W' followed by a large loop and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Wolfgang Lutz

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University of Vienna)  
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