

Achieving Young Dreams in Poverty Alleviation and Green Development

The 4th Silk Road & Young Dreams kicks-off

I. Theme of the program



Eliminating poverty and sharing sustainable prosperity is the common goal pursued by the international community for a long time. In 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was officially launched, the primary goal of which was “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”, ensuring that no one is left behind. After hard work in nearly 6 years, positive progress has been made in global poverty alleviation, but there is still a long way to go to achieve the target of “No Poverty” as scheduled. Even before COVID-19, the UN baseline projections suggested that 6% of the global population would still be living in extreme poverty in 2030. The fallout from the pandemic threatens to push over 70 million people into extreme poverty, which makes the task of poverty reduction very urgent and arduous.

Ending poverty will require more than economic growth, more importantly, it will require pro-poor methods to be sustainable and green-developed. Countries face multiple, interlinked challenges from natural resource depletion, ecosystem degradation and pollution, and climate change that can have direct and indirect impacts on poverty. The poor may be most affected group, as they often live in the most fragile areas and have the fewest resources to help them cope and adapt. To resolve the conflicts and keep balance among poverty alleviation, development and protection, green growth strategies are pathways to poverty eradication.





China is the largest developing country in the world, it is also an active advocate and powerful promoter of poverty eradication, which has contributed more than 70% to global poverty reduction. With about 850 million Chinese taken out of extreme poverty in the past 40 years, China announced that it had eliminated absolute poverty nationwide on November 23rd 2020, leading it to become a country accomplished “End Poverty” target in advance. Inside China’s race to beat poverty, the Chinese government certainly plays a major role. However, the support from international organizations such as the United Nations Development Program, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank cannot be ignored.



The original intention of the “Belt and Road initiative” (BRI) is to bring new opportunities for world development, and to work with relevant countries to build an open, inclusive and balanced regional cooperation framework. Under this framework, sharing the experience of “Chinese-style poverty alleviation” and absorbing the wisdom of other countries will help promote international cooperation in poverty reduction and economic development. According to the World Bank, the BRI will lift 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million people out of moderate poverty in relevant countries.



Young people are the main force in social development, they appear in all important fields including science and technology, environmental protection, culture and education, as well as poverty reduction. The 4th “Silk Road & Young Dreams” takes “Achieving Young Dreams in Poverty Alleviation and Green Development” as its theme, and encourages the youth to elaborate the understanding, researches, observation and suggestions on “poverty alleviation, international cooperation and sustainable development”, so as to show the responsibility of youth in participating in global poverty elimination.

II. Main Features of the 4th Event



(I) Apart from the contests of Speech, Music, Photography, Sand Painting, Sculpture, Youth Start-up Competition will be added as a new program within the event framework. The organizing committee will organize Chinese and foreign youth to model villages to learn and research local poverty alleviation method. The young people will re-plan the road to wealth according to the village conditions, and the government officials will give them comments and guidance. On this basis, the youths will design the poverty alleviation plans of their regions and countries, and the judge panel consists of experts, embassy representatives and enterprise leaders will provide fund and policy support for the good plans.

In addition, seminars on poverty alleviation, cultural experiences, Sculpture and Photo

Exhibition of Poverty Alleviation in China will also be held.

(II) All contests will go through first, second and final selections under the principles of public interests, openness and fairness. There will be nearly 1000 participants during the first election. 500 people from 100 countries will have the opportunities to enter the finals.

(III) The principle of “public interests, openness and fairness” and flexible mechanisms for social operation will be insisted. With the scale expanding and the content enriching, more and more social resources are needed. Funds raised accordingly will be exclusively used for this project. Furthermore, the predefined and balanced budget for each contest will be done separately.

(IV) As an institutionalized and sustainable annual international youth-oriented cultural exchange project, Silk Road & Young Dreams will adhere to the direction of people-to-people connection of BRI, the foundation of youth friendliness in accordance to the actual needs of the “Belt and Road” construction and propose special themes for international youth exchanges. “Poverty Alleviation and Green Development” as the particular theme of this event will continuously enrich its content, keep up with the hot spots, convey the “Belt and Road” spirit, and consolidate the foundation of youth friendship, so as to contribute to the long-term development of the BRI.

III. Overview of the program

The event consists of six competitions, including Speech, Music, Photography, Sand Painting, Sculpture and Start-ups as well as field visits to poverty alleviation bases, exhibitions. The following is the preliminary preparation and event schedule:

(I) Collection of works and selection of contestants

Time: February - May, 2021

Content: Through the online and offline channels and platforms, the organizers collect works for contests from the cities and countries.

For details of the competition rules and registration form, please refer to Introduction to 2021 Silk Road & Young Dreams Contests, WeChat public account of Silk Road & Young Dreams, or call for consultation.

(II) Silk Road Youth Start-up Competition

Time: February - July, 2021

Content: The young contestants design the poverty alleviation plans and promotion of 8 wonders according to the situation of their own countries and regions. In this process, online or offline seminars on poverty reduction and tourism promotion are organized in local villages.

The judge panel consists of experts, embassy representatives and enterprise leaders provide fund and policy support for the good plans.

(III) Final of “Silk Road & Young Dreams”

Time: June - July, 2021

Venue: Beijing, China (TBD)

Content: The finalists will participate the final online and evaluated by the judge panel.

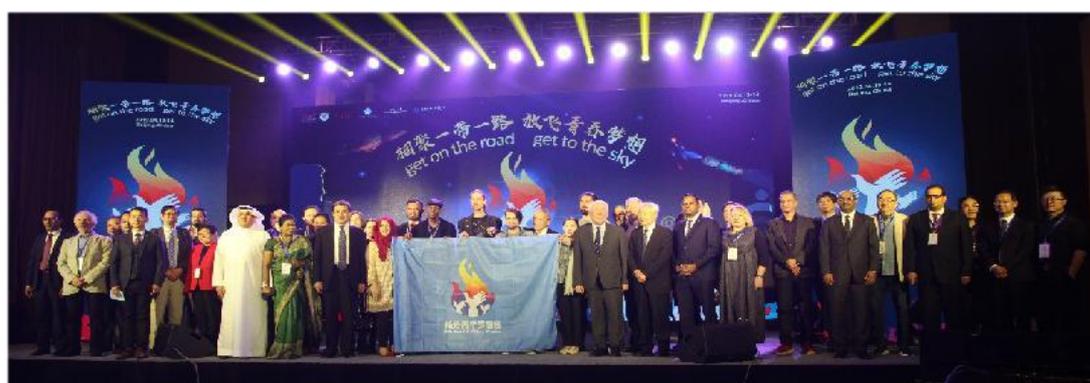


(IV) Awarding Ceremony, Enterprise Visits, Sculpture & Photo Exhibition, Culture Experience

Time: August 12 - 14, 2021

Content: The organizer invites the winners to participate in the awarding ceremony, visit the model base of poverty alleviation and experience local culture.

IV. Introduction of Silk Road & Young Dreams



Silk Road & Young Dreams, a youth-oriented cultural exchange project along the Silk Road, is jointly hosted by Silk Road Cities Alliance, China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development, Beijing Belt and Road Cooperative Community and Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies of Renmin University of China. The fundamental goal of the project is to

provide the youth of countries and regions along the Silk Road who have different backgrounds and dreams, with a stage to shine with talents and potentials, a platform to feel the pulse of the present era and share dreams, as well as a bridge to link up societies. The event was annually held from 2018 with more than 1000 young candidates from 100 countries. In 2021, China Nationality Culture Foundation will be added as a new host.

“Silk Road & Young Dreams” greatly enhances the people-to-people connection among the youth along the Silk Road. Once launched, its rich content and flexible format have been well received by young people. It is decided that on August 12th -14th, 2021, the 4th Silk Road & Young Dreams will be held. It is also determined to further expand its content and enhance its quality, making it a supporting project for the 3rd “Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation”.

V. Organization

Hosts:

Silk Road Cities Alliance

China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development

Beijing Belt and Road Cooperative Community

Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies of Renmin University of China

China Nationality Culture Foundation (new)

Co-Organizers:

The Chinese Urban Sculpture Artists Association

Su Dabao Sand Painting Art International Exchange Center

Guiding Organization:

China NGO Network for International Exchanges (new)

Co-Hosts:

SCOLAR Network - SCO Countries Youth Platform

Beijing Hungarian Cultural Institute

SABRI (Student Association of Belt and Road Initiative)

CRI online

Supporting Organizations:

SCO Secretariat (new)

UNESCO

Embassies of Silk Road countries in China
China Foreign Affairs University
Central Academy of Fine Arts
Central Conservatory of Music
Silk Road School of Renmin University of China (Suzhou)
Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in China
Chinese Debate World Cup Organizing Committee
Global Foundation of Young Entrepreneurs
Belt & Road Initiative Sri Lanka (BRISL)

Supporting Media:

Xinhua News Agency
People's daily
China Media Group
China Daily
China Youth Daily
Hong Kong Wen Wei Po
Jiefang Daily
Global Times
Toutiao
CRI online
Ce.cn

Leadership Council:

Mr. Li Zhaoxing, former Foreign Minister of China
Mr. Massimo D'Alema, former Prime Minister of Italy
Mr. Jean-Pierre Raffarin, former Prime Minister of France
Mr. Zhao Qizheng, former Director of the Information Office of the State
Mr. TSANG Tak-sing, Former Director for Home Affairs of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government
Mr. Li Xikui, Vice President of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries
Mr. Vladimir Norov, Secretary-General of the SCO
Mr. Qin Yaqing, President of China Foreign Affairs University
Mr. Fan Di'an, President of China Central Academy of Fine Arts
Mr. Wu Weishan, Curator of National Art Museum of China
Mr. Yu Feng, President of Central Conservatory of Music
Mr. Zhang Kun, Chief Editor of China Youth Daily

Guidance and support from all walks of life are welcomed, to build this vibrant and far-reaching international youth project.

Welcome young friends to join 4th Silk Road & Young Dreams! Let's get on the Road and get to the Sky!

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