

**Speech at the Signing and Unveiling Ceremony of Confucius Institute,
Durban University of Technology, South Africa**

YE Huiling, Chairperson of the Council, FAFU
27 March 2013

Respectable Mr. Eric Apelgren,
Your Honorable Madam XU Lin,
Respected DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Ahmed Bawa,
Distinguished guests, dear friends,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

It's my great honor and pleasure today to be here with you at this beautiful campus to witness the establishment of the Confucius Institute at DUT. First of all, on behalf of more than 60,000 faculty, staff members and students of Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, I would like to convey my warmest congratulations on this great event! As the co-operative Chinese university, we would also like to extend our gratitude for the concerns and support from different sides in both countries! In particular, I would like to extend my respect and gratitude to Madam XU Lin, Director General of the Confucius Institute Headquarters in Beijing, who in her tight schedule has come all the way to this function. Her presence today shows her special concern for this project and her approbation to Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University. Please allow me to say thank you to her!

I would also like to take this opportunity to give a brief introduction of Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University. The beautiful university FAFU has five campuses, covering an area of 320 hectares, with the main campus located in Fuzhou, the capital city of Fujian Province in China. As a leading higher education institution with 77 years of schooling in Fujian Province, the university is jointly supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Forestry Administration of the People's Republic of China and Fujian provincial government. Currently the university has a graduate school and 25 colleges, home to more than 58,000 students and over 2,300 faculty members. Its comprehensive strength is ranked forefront among universities of the same kind in China.

As the inventing institution of JUNCAO technology, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University has sent scholars and technicians to over 80 countries to spread the technology. We have established technological training bases and demo centers in South Africa, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, FiJI, Lesotho and other countries. JUNCAO technology has helped stimulate local employment, raise people's income and protect the environment. More importantly, the technology has deeply planted the seed of friendship among the people in both China and South Africa. It has been well

received by the local people, and its success is regarded as a model for the co-operation of the two countries, and the technology bridges Fujian Province and KwaZulu-Natal Province to establish sister provinces partnership.

Durban University of Technology is a leading university in teaching, technological training and research programs in SA. The establishment of Confucius Institute will connect the two different cultures and set up a platform for the cooperation of our two universities. We will work together with colleagues and partners from DUT and make joint efforts to build the Confucius Institute into a vital academic, intellectual and cultural bridge between SA and China. Dependent on the advantages in JUNCAO technology, tea industry and forestry industry, FAFU will strengthen the co-operation with DUT in the field of education, culture and technology, hence to promote the cultural exchanges and to enhance the mutual friendship!

It's my first time to come to Durban and as I set my foot on the campus of DUT this morning, I can feel the hospitality of the diligent and smart young people here. We welcome all of you to learn Chinese in Confucius Institute, to visit China and to study overseas in Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University. I firmly believe that in the near future we will see familiar faces from DUT at the campuses of Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University!

Finally, let me close by congratulating again on the establishment of the Confucius Institute and delivering my best wishes to Durban University of Technology.

Thank you very much!