

**Welcome Remarks by Prof. Min Weifang, Chairman of the University Council,
Peking University, at the Opening Ceremony of the “2nd Building A Better Asia:
Future Leaders’ Dialogue” on 10th September 2007 at
Peking University, Beijing, China**

Respected guests,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentleman,

Good morning!

First of all, it gives me great pleasure and honor, on behalf of all the students and faculty members, and on behalf of the entire Peking University community, to extend warm welcome to all of you to Peking University.

We are greatly honored that Peking University is selected as a venue for the “Building A Better Asia: Future Leaders’ Dialogue”, so we are very pleased to have the opportunity to host such a retreat dialogue. Asia is becoming a more and more important region in the world, and all the Asian countries, especially the future leaders, I think, have the responsibilities to build a better Asia in the future for the development and prosperity for our region. The Nippon Foundation has implemented many important programs for the last twenty years to promote mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation among the young leaders of Asia. Peking University is one of the many institutions that has participated in the Nippon Foundation’s programs. We are one of the beneficiary institutions of this important program. When we were invited to be the host of this important dialogue with you, we were very pleased to do it. The future of Asia depends on the young generation having more responsibility. The Nippon Foundation has contributed significantly for the cultivation of future leaders of Asia.

Peking University will do everything we can to make the retreat dialogue program at our university most successful. We will do everything we can to make your stay at Peking University joyful and fruitful.. Once again, welcome to Peking University and I wish your dialogue a great success.

Thank you very much.