

菲律賓

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尊敬的蔡部長、曾局長、各位部長、
各位貴賓、先生及女士：

非常榮幸來港與各位一同出席今屆的亞洲文化合作論壇。首先，我要感謝香港特區政府的邀請，讓我有機會參與這個出色的論壇。亞洲文化合作論壇是成功的文化討論平台，使文化保育工作者得以互相認識、合作及交流經驗，對此我誠心致賀。這次應該是我第三次出席亞洲文化合作論壇了。藉此機會，我要感謝多個國家，特別是中國，在菲律賓41個省份受到超級颱風海燕吹襲後的幫助。在此再次致謝。

Honorable Minister Cai Wu, Honorable Secretary for Home Affairs, my good friend Mr. Tsang Tak-sing, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to join you here in Hong Kong at this Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum. I begin by extending my sincere appreciation to the Home Affairs Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government. They invited me to this good meeting and also my warm congratulation to the Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum as cultural mechanism for cultural heritage practitioners to get to know, coordinate and exchange experiences among one another. I think this is my third time to attend this co-operation meeting, and of course I would also like to thank the many countries specially China, the Chinese government that has extended help to the

文學是讓一個社群界定自我的一套文字體系，有助營造社會融和及團結。文學在翻譯成其他語言後，可觸動人們相互的心靈，從而促進國際和諧及理解。文學拓闊我們的想像力，讓我們可在無邊的思想國度遨遊。正如前美國總統克林頓所言，兒童不能活在沒有想像空間的世界，而文學正好開拓我們的想像力。不少年輕人受制於環境、貧窮、歧視、缺乏期望、文化孤立及其他問題，令他們無法超越目前生活所局限的眼界，這個情況確實值得憂慮；而文學卻可以在所費無幾的情況下，讓人洞察其他生活及思考的角度。文學的其中一個優點，是擴闊讀者的視野，令他們體會生活的多種可能性、憧憬一個更美好的世界，以及通過文學的啟發，促成自身以至社會的蛻變。豐富的想像力，令人的思考更具深度：同理心令人得以代入他人的感受或內心世界，而文學正是大幅加強這種能力的工具。透過閱讀更多的小說作品，我們可以代入不同角色的人生及他們身處的獨特情景。閱讀能使人間接體驗了不同的情景，在現實生活中遇到有關情況時，

Philippines because of the devastation brought by this Haiyan Typhoon super storm, that ravaged 41 provinces in Philippines. Thank you very much.

Literature is a body of words in a language in which a community defines itself. As such, it can foster social coherence and unity. And it's translated into other languages; sensitize us to one another thus promoting international harmony and understanding. Literature expands our imagination and provides us ideas of what is possible. According to one US president, Bill Clinton, children can't be expected to live a life that they cannot imagine; and literature expands our imagination. We rightly worry that many young people's lives are limited or circumscribed by their limited environment, poverty, discrimination, low expectations, cultural isolation and other conditions that may render them unable to see beyond the limits of their immediate horizons. Literature does offer inexpensively a vision of other lives and other perspectives; one of its potential benefits is to enlarge the reader's sense of the many possible ways to live, hope for a better world, and the possibility of self or social transformation inspired by literature. And a rich imagination deepens the intellectual capacity of a person. Empathy is the capability of entering into another person's feelings or inner lives. This is an ability that is enhanced greatly by literature. As we keep reading more works of fiction we are able to enter into the lives of different characters and their unique situations. One might vicariously

即可利用文學帶來的經驗，增強自己的能力，以成熟的態度處事。讓一個人閱讀優質的文學作品，等同給予他最好的教育機會；而無法提供足夠的文學作品，相當於剝奪他人成長的機會。

散文、詩歌、戲劇、論文、小說、各類以闡揚哲學、藝術、歷史、宗教及文化的作品，以至科學及法律文章，同樣可視為文學作品。文學在藝術方面扮演非常獨特的角色：既為溝通渠道，亦為表達方式。正因如此，偉大的文學及詩歌作品如《聖經》、印度的史詩《羅摩衍那》及《摩訶婆羅多》，以及老子的《道德經》，都能為社會提供充滿智慧的生活指引和原則。我們正是透過閱讀這些文學及詩歌鉅著洞察人生。至於對社會貢獻良多，成就非凡的才智之士，其生平亦通過傳記的描述傳世。有關作品不單讓我們了解這些名人賢達的生平，亦盛載他們的理念，垂範於世人特別是青年人。

事實上，不少重大的科學發現，都是出於文學作品的啟發，只是不為大眾

experience situations through reading, and when such situations actually come, the experience given by literature expands our ability to handle them in a mature way. Exposing an individual to good literary works is equivalent to providing him or her with the finest education opportunities. We will be depriving a person the opportunity for growth if we don't provide enough literature.

Prose, poetry, drama, essays, fiction, literary works based on philosophy, arts, history, religion and culture, as well as scientific and legal writings are also classified as literature. Literature is unique among the arts in that it is the only one that is equally a form of communication and expression. That's why some of the great literary and poetic works like the Bible, and Indian epic like Ramayana and Mahabharata or poetic philosophical texts like Lao Tzu's Way of Life, provide society with the guidance and the principals of wisdom or good living. It is through reading such great literary and poetic works that we understand life. Lives of brilliant achievers who have made valuable contributions to society are also sketched in their biographies. These works give us an insight into the life of these eminent people, while also serving as a bible of ideals, especially to the young people.

Indeed, there are many literary works that have inspired great scientific discoveries and many people don't realize this. For example, in the 13th century,

所知。例如十三世紀的Rumi，已在哲學作品中預料數百年後達爾文學說的來臨：Rumi在探討人類起源的作品中提出，人類最初是礦物，然後逐步進化成植物、動物，再進而為人。他繼續推論：若進化持續下去，我們下一階段會否進化成天使？這就是Rumi在十三世紀的論點。我不知道達爾文有否讀過Rumi的著作，若有的話他的演化論可說是來自Rumi的啟發。我們也可以看看其他偉大名著，例如凡爾納的《海底二萬哩》，提早數十年預言潛艇的出現；五、六十年代“Buck Rogers”的故事，也預言了雷射光束。無數的文學作品預視了各種科學發現，原因就是它們擴闊了人類對甚麼是「可能」的概念。當然，並非所有文學作品皆然；現時不少暢銷刊物，只屬商業性質。不過，總有一些作品會推動你思考，再反思人類世界。我們的職責，就是鼓勵這些作品出現。

在菲律賓，我們的國家文化藝術委員會(文化部的別稱)已推出不少發展完善的項目，推動創作各類文學作

Rumi in one philosophical poetry literary work anticipated Darwin by so many centuries, because in his works on the evolution of the human being, he said that in the beginning we were minerals, that is in one of his works - In the beginning we were minerals. Then we graduated into becoming plants, after that we became animals, according to Rumi. From there we became human. And so he continues: if there is a continuous progress, what prevents us from becoming angels as the next stage of evolution? That was Rumi in the 13th century. I don't know if Darwin read Rumi. If he did we can say that evolution was inspired by that. But look at what happens if we read such great works, including Jules Verne's Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, which anticipated the submarine by so many decades. Also I don't know if you are able to read Buck Rogers back in the 50s and 60s whose stories anticipated the laser beam. And you can say many, many works of literature anticipated scientific discoveries, because they expand our notion of what is possible. Of course, not all literature does this. Many of the best sellers now are pure commercial in nature. But there are those writings that make you think and cause you to reflect on human condition. It is our function to encourage more of such literature.

In the Philippines, our National Commission for Culture, which is another name for our Ministry of Culture, has many well-developed programs for encouraging literary works of all kinds. We give an

品。我們有年度作家獎項，得獎的優秀作家可獲巨額獎金，足夠維持一年生活之用，令他們可以在一年內生活無憂，專心寫作，完成一本重要的作品。我們亦設立了「文學藝術委員會」，以及「語文及翻譯委員會」；由於菲律賓有多達87種語言，後者將大量口頭或地區方言的文學作品，翻譯成國家官方語言及英文。而文化部最近亦設定了18種主要語言，任何文學鉅著以至教材都必須翻譯成這18種母語，令全國所有兒童都能獲得適當的教育。此外我們亦設立了「戲劇藝術委員會」，還有「電影委員會」推動各區域的電影創作。我們每年舉辦25次文學作家工作坊，預計這些工作坊及作家大會將每年舉行，並取得成功。

在此再次感謝大家給予機會，讓我們分享本國經驗，以及表達關於促進文學對現代生活及社會活力的重要性的意見。

謝謝各位。

annual writers prize, a very big amount to enable one great or good writer to keep writing for one year; we provide them enough to live on and even more than that, so that in one year one major work could be finished. We also have a Committee on Literary Arts, we have a Committee on Language and Translations, which translate a lot of literary works from the vernacular, from the local language, to national language and into English, because we have around 87 languages in the Philippines. But our Department recently canonized 18 major languages and any great literary works or even educational materials should automatically be translated into these 18 mother languages, mother tongues, so that children all over the country will be properly educated. We also have a Committee on the Dramatic Arts. We have a Committee on Films that encourages cinematic writing in all the different regions. And annually we run 25 literary writers workshops. We expect these writers workshops or writers congresses to operate successfully every year.

Well, thank you very much again for giving us the opportunity to share whatever we have and the importance of better literature for our contemporary living and vibrancy of society.

Thank you very much.