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**Closing ceremony 29.8.2015**

Honorary Professor Zhang Rong, The President of the Shandong University, Distinguished guests, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the International Committee of Historical Sciences It is my great pleasure and honor to thank the Chinese organizers for the successful conference. I would like to warmly thank the Chinese Ministry of Education, Shandong Province Government, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Association of Chinese Historians. Thanks to Shandong University and the Organizing Committee of the conference for very effective work. My thanks go to 21 specialized teams at Shandong University, which have done this conference possible and so successful and to 500 volunteers, which have guided us. None got lost. Thank you for splendid ceremonies with spectacular music and dance.

We have listened to paper givers, to commentators and debates on history by professional historians. We have had a possibility to talk with Chinese scholars and students and have learned a lot.

At first my task is to introduce the **new board**, chosen at the General Assembly, August 29th 2015:

- Professor Andrea Giardina, President (University of Pisa, Italian National Committee) Professor Eliana Dutra, 1. vice president (University of Minas Gerais, National Committee of Brasil)
- Professor Pim van Boer, 2. vice president (University of Amsterdam, National Committee of Netherlands) Professor Catherine Horel, secretary general secretary (Centre national de la recherche scientifique française, CNRS, Paris, Commission d'histoire des relations internationales)
- Professor Laurent Tissot, (University of Neuchatel, International Economic History Association)

**Assessor members:**

Joel Harrington (University of Vanderbilt, American Historical Association)

Lim Jie-Hyun (University of Sogang, Seoul),

Professor Krzysztof Makowski (University of Poznan, Polish National Committee)

Professor Matthias Middell (University of Leipzig, Commission d'histoire de la Révolution française, Network of Global and World History Associations)

Professor Lorina Repina (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscou, National Committee of Russia and Commission for the History of towns)

- Tao Wenzhao (The Chinese Academy of Political Sciences, National Committee of Historical Sciences)

- Marjatta Hietala, Counsellor-member in the Board, as the former president.

Of the members in the new board half of members are representatives of National Committees and half representatives of International Affiliated Organizations. Equality did not happen what concern gender distribution. There are four women in the board, if counsellor- member is taken account.

I wish Good luck for your work.

Secondly I am grateful that I have had a possibility to work with you, my colleagues at the board. I would like to thank you all for good cooperation. Thank you general secretary Robert Frank and joint secretary Pascal Cauchy from Paris, vice presidents Pim van Boer from Amsterdam and Hilda Sabato from Buenos Aires, tresoir Laurent Tissot, from Neuchatel, Michel Bibikov from Moscow, Andrea Giardina from Rome, Jie-Hyun Lim from Seoul, Karen Offen from San Francisco, John Rogister from London and Tao Wenzhao from Beijing. Special thanks for those who are leaving the bureau: Robert Frank, Hilda Sabato, Karen Offen, Michel Bibikov and John Rogister. Also my predecessor Jean-Luc Peset have to leave. No one cannot be a member of the bureau more than 10 years,

We have been a very effective team when choosing themes for this conference- We wanted encourage the organizers of sessions to choose younger historians and paper givers from non European countries and in that respect we have succeeded. Our Chinese organizers mentioned that there were participants from 90 countries. For example at China from Global perspective session there were papers by Chinese, Italian, French, Japanese and American historians as well as historians from Qatar and Taiwan.

We are proud for CISH Jaeger –Le Coultre prize. Our board, thanks to Laurent Tissot, managed to find a sponsor for the prize: the manufacture Jaeger Le Coultre. We experienced a historical moment to award an historian Serge Gruzinski. When this was the first time when the prize was awarded, the jury consisted of all board members.

As other concrete results I can mention that some new national committees were born or founded again after some years gaps. We had also plans to recruit historians from Arab World to found national committees but because of the unrest and the war in the Near East in Arab Countries we could not fulfill our plans. One result has been the mobility fund founded by our board for historians (young or on pension) who had difficulties become money from other foundations or from their universities. We are thankful for Pim van Boer, who organized a solidarity fond for historians coming from developing countries in addition what the organizing committee has done in getting historians to come to Jinan from non Western countries (eg no fees, air tickets etc)

What new we have learned? It seems that historians are on the edge of time. Papers in the major sessions eg.in the session Digitalized turn in History and in the evening session Promoting Digital History internationally opened eyes of participants what does mean digitalization for historians: New possibilities and tools to make research not only on modern and contemporary history but for medievalists and researchers of Ancient History. It is an open question what kind of archives there might be born based on social media or on e-mails.

Transnational contacts have shown their power when we are thinking on the content of sessions and distribution of paper givers according to countries and continents. I give only some examples. The first Major session China from Global perspective. At the session there were papers by Chinese, Italian, French, Japanese and American historians as well as historians from Qatar and Taiwan. Many other organizers have followed that "rule" to include historians outside the Western world.

In my opening speech I raised a question: What will be the future of conferences like this and more widely what will be the role of historians and the fate of history profession in the digitalized world?

During the last years a big revolution has happened. When earlier historical image was built on several layers of historical knowledge starting from school books, then on research results published in historical journals and books. Today historical world view is built on popular presentations on media, films, TV, often by non professional historians. How can we keep abreast with a new development/trend? My main message for historians in the future is the following Please disseminate your knowledge for wider audience and cooperate with people of popular culture. I also encouraged for cooperation between various fields of Humanities and disciplines, like social sciences and with cultural studies.

My visit to Jinan is the fourth one and I have only positive memories about hospitality and scientific program here in Jinan. During my first visit in 2011 I had a pleasure to meet several historians and people at the international office. I learned how foreign students will be introduced to the Chinese culture and I learned about different dynasties and about recent excavations at the excellent museum of the Shandong University. I was very impressed when rare manuscripts were shown for me. The following visit in October 2013 was the meeting of the board of the International Committee of Historical Sciences connected to the Symposium of Regional Culture & Qilu Civilization. The last visit, in January 2015 was for preparation of conference,

On the homepage of ICHS/CISH on the section of Presidents's word I mentioned "We have to cross borders in order to understand different cultures, ideologies, methods and to collaborate." When I am looking the results of this conference I have to admit that we have reached this goal.

Thank you all for coming. Enjoy Chinese culture during tourist trips. Let us meet in Poznan in 2020!