

Chinese Language Day at the United Nations  
18 April 2019, 7 p.m.  
UN Headquarters, Conference Building, South Wall

**Transcript of the remarks by Ms. Cecilia Elizalde,  
Director of the Documentation Division, on behalf of Ms. Catherine Pollard,  
Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, and  
UN Coordinator for Multilingualism**

Excellencies,

Friends and colleagues,

It is an honour for me to take part in the celebrations of the 2019 U.N. Chinese Language Day, not only as Director of the Documentation Division, with its largest number Chinese language professionals in the U.N., but also on behalf of Ms. Catherine Pollard, Coordinator for Multilingualism in the UN Secretariat and Head of the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management. I wish to thank all colleagues and friends who put in countless hours and creativity to celebrate this special day.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to Ambassador Wu Haitao for again joining us in celebrating the Chinese Language Day and China's strong support to multilingualism, one of the key values of the United Nations.

Chinese, one of the six official languages of the United Nations, has its unique beauty and charm. It's an ancient language with more than 5,000 years of history spoken by the biggest and growing number of people in the world. It's a door to an extremely rich treasure of Chinese culture, which is an integral part of the cultural diversity of the United Nations.

I cannot talk about the language without mentioning the contributions of the Chinese language professionals in the Organization. Translators, interpreters, editors, verbatim reports, text-processors in my Department, and other Chinese colleagues working through websites, radio and social media platforms, displayed a high level of professionalism and dedication, and are building bridges of communications, not only facilitating the deliberations in the conference rooms but also promoting the understanding of the Chinese people of what the Organization does and stands for.

I cannot but marvel at the exquisite beauty "Modern Fashion meets Traditional Opera" exhibition in the lobby of the Albano building which houses over 600 language professionals of the six Official Languages and German. It features fine works of art by one of the newest colleagues of the Chinese Translation Service of my Division. I invite you all to view the exhibitions with your own eyes.

I myself was a student of Chinese in the Language Programme and had first hand experience with the magnificent and subtle Chinese language. While I am far from proficient in the language, I have a natural affinity with the language, which I hope to come back to one day.

I wish to thank colleagues of the Chinese Translation Service, the Chinese Book Club and the Chinese Language Programme for organizing the celebrations and the artists and speakers for their contributions. In particular, I wish to thank Ambassador Wu Haitao for his presence and support.

Thank you for your attention and wish you all a very pleasant evening.