

Opening Remarks at the HSUHK Global Humanities Initiative “Daily Experience and Creation of the Human Environment” International Academic Workshop

24 October 2022

Vice-President Huang Xian-hai, Mr. Derek Yue, Prof. Wang Jun, Prof. PC Hsiung, Prof. Wang Jie, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

I have great pleasure to be part of this great team of scholars here this morning. This international academic workshop, organized by the School of Philosophy and the College of Media and International Culture of Zhejiang University, is gathering people of wisdom to explore issues relating to global humanities. I am honoured that the Global Humanities Initiative of the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK), together with CIPSH (International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences), ANHN (Asian New Humanities Net), The Center for Contemporary Marxist Aesthetics, and the Academy of Tourism and Leisure of Zhejiang University, Hangzhou Normal University and Tencent Social Research Centre, are co-hosting this important event. I would also like to give a warm welcome to all of you who are participating from various time zones.

The HSUHK Global Humanities Initiative (GHI) was established in 2017 as part of our commitment as a liberal-arts-oriented university. The University is now offering more than 30 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes from five Schools. The GHI has been one of the University’s major initiatives that actively promote interdisciplinary research and studies.

The GHI helps connect HSUHK to the world, having collaborations with CIPSH under UNESCO on innovative research projects, examining humanities issues from different and innovative perspectives. Prof. PC Hsiung and Prof. Gilbert Fong have pioneered the development in the area of global humanities at HSUHK. The related research and initiatives have enhanced students’ awareness in humanities issues in a global context, and their interest in interdisciplinary studies. We hope that our staff and students from different disciplines will gain access to new ideas and perspectives on humanities issues.

In the academic year 2021-22, two international conferences on topics relating to “Play, games and competition” were organized in Hangzhou, and at the same time, catering for participants from other places online. With the Covid-19 pandemic still prevailing, people’s daily experiences have undergone big changes. The magnitude of change that has been fueled by technological advancement has leapt beyond human imagination.

Have we created a human environment that benefits mankind in the future? This is certainly a significant discourse that is worth the effort and time of academics of all disciplines. It seems very difficult to find an answer for the future of mankind, but I think sustainability, innovations and human values might be the key words. Our future holds on to a sustainable and innovative human environment.

This workshop is a warm-up for the Tokyo Conference in August 2023 and the Hangzhou Conference in September 2023. I am pleased that “Daily Experience and Creation of the Human Environment” is the theme of this workshop. Presentations from aesthetical, philosophical, cosmological, ontological, social, economic and cultural perspectives will bring to this workshop a wealth of ideas. I look forward to being enlightened by your ideas and the discussions today.

Thank you very much.