Dear His Excellency Chinese Ambassador Mr. Zhao Jun,
Dear Bjørn Tore Kjellemo and Tarje Bjørgum,
Dear distinguished guests and friends,
all CPN members,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to today’s event, “Bridging people and business”, hosted by Chinese Professionals in Norway and Nor-Alumni China of Research Council of Norway. This event is also supported by the Directorate of Integration and Diversity. Thank you all for coming!

With advanced transport system the world becomes ‘smaller’, people are more mobile, and businesses become more international. Understanding different cultures and building up good relationships are the key factors for successful business. Chinese Professionals in Norway worked hard with bridging people and businesses between Norway and China in the last ten years.

Having about one fifth of the world population and a quickly developed economy, China becomes an important global player in the world. This evening, we are honored to invite Ambassador Zhao to give us a speech about the great changes in China, the dreams of generations, and the bridging role of Overseas Chinese. His speech will give us a good understanding about what will happen in China in the coming decade.

Business depends on people. Norwegian companies are screaming for skilled resources while unemployment rises in the other parts of the world. Tarje Bjørgum, senior policy strategist from Abelia, will talk about the need of global talents in Norway. Bjørn Tore Kjellemo, department director from Research Council of Norway will introduce NorAlumni to us, and Professor Xing Cai from Simular Research Lab is going to show us the advantages with multicultural knowledge.

Today, we are here also to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of Chinese Professionals in Norway.

Starting with 40 persons in October 2003, CPN has grown quickly to over 600 members now. The members of CPN consist mainly of highly educated Chinese descendent living in Norway. Internally, CPN provides a social network for members, helping people in need, and let the new comers feels like home. CPN has also established a Juniorclub for the children of our members. Towards the society, CPN promotes cultural diversity, participates in social activities, and works actively with integration of immigrants. From 2008 to 2013, CPN is the co-organizer of ERAS multi-cultural festival each year in Oslo centrum. During the Parliament election this year, CPN arranged a big political debate at Litteraturhuset already in June.

Helping Chinese companies in Norway and Norwegian businesses in China is one of our main focuses. CPN cooperated with Innovation Norway during Shanghai Expo. We also helped many Chinese delegations and companies with useful advices.

CPN is committed to “bridging people, culture and business”. Immigrants can make great contributions to the Norwegian society, and Norwegian industries need competent workers. We believe mutual understanding and cooperation is the golden key to open all doors. Competent immigrants need a chance to meet Norwegian companies. CPN’s mission is to create such meeting place. This is also what we are doing this evening.

CPN has gained more recognition in the Norwegian society. Until now, 4 CPN members have been granted with TOP10 immigrant prize. In the last period, CPN has successfully carried out several integration projects for Oslo Kommune and IMDi.

CPN cannot have today’s success without the support and help from all our members, partners, the Chinese Embassy, and the Norwegian government. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your supports in the last ten years.

Every Norwegian knows the story about “digging a hole straight down through the earth …”. This evening, you don’t need to dig a hole in order to hear the true voice of songs from the other side of the world! We have 7 famous soloists travelling many thousand miles just for attending for this event!

Prepare yourself to be excited, amused, and inspired!

It's really a pleasure to see so many of you here. I am sure you will have a wonderful and memorable evening!