

## Introduction of Major Institutions

### The Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Peking University

The Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Peking University (IAHS), a research and teaching institution that specializes in academic research, academic exchange, and fostering talents, was founded in 2008 and inaugurated on 28 September 2012. Deeply rooted in Chinese tradition, IAHS promotes academic research of international and creative significance to promote interdisciplinary collaboration within the humanities, between the humanities and social sciences, and between the humanities and natural sciences, to deepen the self-reflexivity of Chinese traditional culture, and to realize its creative developments and transformations. The founding director of IAHS is Professor Tu Weiming.

The mission and vision of The Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Peking University (IAHS) is both deeply rooted in traditional Chinese culture and integrated with a globalized world. It engages in academic research of international and creative significance to promote interdisciplinary collaboration within the humanities, between the humanities and natural sciences, to deepen the self-reflexivity of Chinese traditional culture, and to realize its creative development and transformation. It plans to take a leading role in facilitating the world's mediation of Chinese culture through the subjectivity of Chinese thought in the context of cultural diversity and religious pluralism, with the hope of creating a globally significant approach to ethics inspired by the Chinese notion of "One Commonwealth Under Heaven".

Among the Institute's diverse activities, three areas of engagement may be highlighted.



### **Cultural China**

“China” encompasses a realm of culture that is not constrained by political, territorial, or even ethnic boundaries. Instead, it involves three symbolic universes. The first consists of Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, and Singapore - that is, the societies populated predominately by cultural and ethnic Chinese. The second includes Chinese diasporic communities throughout the world, while the third symbolic universe consists of “foreigners” - scholars, teachers, journalists, and businesspeople - who hold a lifelong concern for Chinese cultural traditions. Relying on this broadminded notion of China, we seek to scrutinize issues of identity and develop a more inclusive notion of Chineseness.

### **Dialogue Among Civilizations**

Via multilevel and multiperspective dialogues, the IAHS seeks to elevate the cultural self-reflection and global consciousness of Chinese intellectuals. It remains founded in traditional Chinese culture while learning from the ethical wisdom of various Axial and non-Axial civilizations and indigenous cultures. Furthermore, it promotes essential dialogues between territories, ethnic groups, and diverse religions. These dialogues aim to transcend outmoded dichotomies such as “East and West” and “Tradition and Modernity.” Thus, instead of continuing to contrast China with North America and Western Europe, the IAHS also endeavours to cultivate dialogues with India, Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East.

### **World Ethics**

The World Ethics Institute in Beijing (WEIB), established on October 29, 2012 under the auspices of the IAHS, is a postgraduate center for research, teaching, learning, publishing, and public service. It is the first research institution in China focusing on global ethics, and in particular global economic ethics. WEIB aims to remain rooted in traditional Chinese culture while learning from the ethical wisdom of various Axial and non-Axial civilizations and indigenous cultures. Through means such as civilizational dialogue, WEIB aims to build a creative research team that combines teaching and learning, domestic and international resources. Finally, the institute aspires to bring the ancient spiritual wisdom of Chinese civilization, as well as contemporary Chinese culture, to research on global ethics, so as to make the latter more diversified and globally significant.

(Prepared by Jonathan Keir, Director of Center for Dialogue Among Civilizations)