

*Introduction and Faculty Opening Remarks*

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MR. DANIEL MICHAELI: Good evening. Distinguished guests, faculty and students, ladies and gentlemen: on behalf of the conference committee and the students of the University of Chicago, I am honored to welcome you to the China and the Future of the World Conference this weekend. We are particularly honored that Ambassador Christopher Hill, Assistant Secretary Peter Rodman and Ambassador Wang Guangya are arriving at the conference from the east coast, even with busy schedules and very important responsibilities. Ambassador Wang, who will deliver the closing keynote address tomorrow evening, is currently serving as president of the United Nations Security Council this month.

Several speakers, including Ambassador Wu Jianmin, traveled from China to participate in the conference, and we are very grateful to them for making this journey to share with us their knowledge, experience and vision for the future of China. Congressman Kirk, Ambassador Lilley, Consul Xu Jinzhong: thank you for taking part in this conference at the University of Chicago. My name is Daniel Michaeli, and I am the chairman of the conference committee, and president of Chicago Society.

Planning for this conference began about a year ago, in recognition of China's growing importance, not only in the economic sense, but also in particular in its foreign policy relevance to the United States. The United States, in order to best respond to China's rise, and to learn to work within the new global order that will emerge, must come to understand China in a better way, and this conference is a small effort to try to increase our ability to understand China in the United States.

Now I want to introduce one of the finest professors at the University of Chicago, chairman of the Department of History and China scholar, and he has been working with us with the conference and has helped us and supported us all along: Professor Prasenjit Duara.

PROFESSOR PRASENJIT DUARA: Well, welcome to this conference, which indeed we've all been waiting for for a long time, "China and the Future of the World." I didn't quite realize that I would be making the welcome comments today; I thought it was really tomorrow, so I'm just going to make some very brief comments.

I would have thought it was less than a year ago when Dan Michaeli was doing a class with me at that time on popular culture in China, approached me and said that, you know, the student body, the undergraduate student body wanted to have a conference, to organize a conference on China. All I did was to encourage him to "go big." I said, "Go big." And it didn't take much.

And the next thing I knew, was all this flurry of events and, boy, did we go big! This is, of course, something that graduate students and the graduate faculty would not have been able to pull off, because we don't think big in that sense, and so I'm extremely pleased, and I'm extremely admiring of our organizers—in particular, Dan—who have been in touch with me constantly, as he mentioned, about this. And I just saw this thing unfold and take shape, and I was so pleased. It occurred to me that, I think, this would be clearly the most important part of it: the fact that it is happening at the University of Chicago, which sees itself as such an ivory tower of intellectual scholars and

we talk about issues that usually have very little direct relevance—I didn't say relevance [laughter]—but direct relevance to the world. To be hosting this, I think, is a fantastic event, so I welcome you all, and let me just introduce the first panel, which is U.S. business and government responding to the China challenge, and this will be moderated by Professor Anil Kashyap, who can take over. Thank you.