



满山秋色 继往开来

剑桥中国文化中心董事长纪虎民
在剑桥中文学校成立20周年庆典上的讲演
2011 年 10 月 8 日

尊敬的各位来宾们:

亲爱的剑桥中文学校的同学们,老师们,员工们,家长们,朋友们:

您们好!在剑桥中文学校成立 20 周年的大喜的日子,我谨代表剑桥中国文化中心董事会,对您们的到来,表示热烈的欢迎和诚挚的敬意!我们非常荣幸与大家共襄盛举,在这里欢庆剑桥中文学校的 20 岁生日。

1991 年 10 月,我们 3 位来自中国大陆的学人,在剑桥市的图书馆里,创办了一所只有七名学生,一位教师,一张桌子的剑桥中文学校。次年,学校在麻州政府正式注册为剑桥中国文化中心,一个以中文教育,文化交流,出版发行为宗旨的非营利组织。20 年过去了,中心下属的剑桥中文学校已发展成为现在的拥有上千名学生,近百名教职工,开设了数十门课程,具有剑桥和华森两处校址,约 1 万 6 千平方英尺场地的正式教育机构。目前,剑桥中文学校已形成设有课后班,周末班,暑期班和幼儿早期教育中心四个功能不同,相辅相成的教育系列。

剑桥中文学校是美东地区第一所使用简体字,普通话和汉语拼音教学的中文学校,在大波士顿地区以至全美以良好的教育质量而著称。20 年来,剑桥中文学校不但锻炼出一支热爱华文教育并富有经验的教师队伍,而且还探索出一套适合在海外学习华文的独特教学方法。学校重视创造优良的华文学习环境,强调提高学生学习华文兴趣,通过各种中国文化课程的学习,逐步培养和开发学生多元文化和双语的潜能,使学生们真正成为品学兼优的双语人才。二十年来,很多的华裔和其他族裔的孩子们在剑桥中文学校学习过。剑桥中文学校的学生在全球全美的中文,数学,演讲,美术,乒乓球等各种比赛中,硕果累累,捷报频传。在剑桥中文学校系统学习过的学生们,有相当高的比例进入美国顶尖大学和颇有影响力的职场。剑桥中文学校学生们的优异表现,不仅打破了在海外学中文难,学中文无用,学中文会影响孩子在美国学校成绩的困惑,更证明了在海外华裔子女的成长过程中,一所质地

优良的中文学校可以也应当扮演重要的角色。

美国人星期天上教堂,海外华人星期天上中文学校。而且是扶老携幼,风雨无阻全家上中文学校。为什么?从剑桥中文学校的二十年的发展历程来看,中文学校不仅是一所中文教育基地,而且还是华人社区的重要纽带和促进美中两国人民之间友好的桥梁。由于众多家长和华人朋友的关心和投入,以剑桥中文学校为核心,逐年建立起艺术团,家长会,校友会,老人活动中心,剑桥通讯,系列讲座,乒乓球俱乐部等一系列组织。这些组织的会员已达数千人,仅剑桥夕阳红老人活动站就有注册会员 650 人之多。他们和大波士顿地区华人社团一起,积极开展人民之间的文化交流活动,为弘扬中华文化,促进中美关系发挥了积极的桥梁作用。

20 年如一日,辛苦办学,付出很多,我们无怨无悔。桃李不言,下自成蹊。剑桥的孩子们以他们的表现为我们的努力作了最好的评价。我们远离家园,移居海外,我们并不孤独,华夏文化始终与我们相随。中文学校已成为我们新移民在北美大陆的新家园。十年树木,百年树人,对一项教育事业来说,20 年的时间只是历史的瞬间。美国的华文教育事业,可追溯于清末,已有百年的历史。波士顿地区的中华广教学校,牛顿中文学校和剑桥中文学校,分别代表我们波士顿华人在不同历史时期所走过的历程。我们互相激励,薪火相传,共同在海外为传统的华夏文化开拓和保留了一片净土。

借此欢庆的机会,我再次代表剑桥中国文化中心董事会和我本人:

向美国麻州州政府,剑桥市政府,华森市政府和所有的美国朋友们,表示衷心的感谢。没有他们的民主制度和倡导多元文化的宽容精神,剑桥中文学校就不可能诞生和存在。

向中国国务院侨办,国家教委,纽约总领事馆,全美中文学校协会表示衷心的感谢!没有他们的支持和帮助,剑桥中文学校将不会健康的发展到今天。

向波士顿所有帮助过我们的华人社团,兄弟学校和华人朋友们,表示衷心的感谢! 20 年风风雨雨,我们共同缔造了一个互助和谐的波士顿华人社区,为孩子们的华文教育提供了良好的学习环境。

向剑桥中国文化中心董事会的成员们,向剑桥中文学校全体师生员工,义工和家长们,表示衷心的感谢。一个人一辈子没有几个 20 年。能与大家相识在波士顿,用 20 年的共同

奋斗创办了剑桥中文学校,我感到三生有幸!

一叶知秋,剑桥的故事不过是我们海外华人奋斗生存的一个缩影。满山秋色,才是我们下一代的希望所在。我们深信,在海外从事华文教育是一项功在当代,利在千秋的崇高事业。任重道远,让我们继续努力,历史不会忘记我们!



Speech in the Ceremony of the 20th Anniversary of the Cambridge Chinese School

**Humin Ji, President
of the Cambridge Center For Chinese Culture**

October 8th, 2011



Ladies and gentlemen:

I warmly welcome you to the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Cambridge Center for Chinese Culture. Please allow me to express the most heartfelt welcome to all of you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Cambridge Center for Chinese Culture. We are so honored to join the festivities with everyone here to celebrate the 20th birthday of Cambridge Center for Chinese Culture.

In October 1991, in the Cambridge library, we, three scholars from the Mainland China, set up a Cambridge Chinese School with only seven students, one teacher and a single table. In the following year, the school was officially registered as the Cambridge Center for Chinese Culture, a non-profit organization in Massachusetts promoting Chinese language education and cultural exchange. Two decades have passed, and the Cambridge Chinese School has now grown into a formal educational institution with thousands of students, near hundred faculty members, and over 40 courses. The school now operates in over 16,000 square foot area with two separate premises located in Waltham and Cambridge. The CCCC also operates a mature educational series consisting of after-school and weekend classes, as well as a summer school and early childhood education programs. These programs serve different communities but complement each other in their commitment to promoting Chinese language and culture.

The Cambridge Chinese School is the first to teach the Mandarin style of the Chinese language in the eastern United States, using the simplified characters, Standard Chinese and Chinese Pinyin. The school has a top reputation for its high-quality education in the Greater

Boston area as well as across the United States. For the past two decades, the Cambridge Chinese School has not only trained high-quality teachers, who are both devoted and well-experienced, but has also explored a set of unique, teaching methods, appropriate for the learning of Chinese overseas. The school attaches great importance to the creation of a good environment for Chinese language learning and the enhancement of students' interests in learning Chinese language.

Through a variety of Chinese culture courses, the school cultivates the students' cultural appreciation and bilingual proficiency. The overriding goal is to encourage students to become fully bilingual and to embrace the Chinese culture. Our aim is to have our students excel both in their academic pursuits and in their understanding of the Chinese people. For the past two decades, thousands of ethnic Chinese children and children of other ethnic groups have studied in the Cambridge Chinese School. The students have had great achievements in multiple arenas, nationwide and globally, including Chinese language, mathematics, speech, art, and table tennis. A high percentage of our students have been accepted to elite American colleges and have been offered jobs in some of the world's most influential companies. Our students' outstanding performance has cleared up the misunderstanding that it is difficult and useless for students to learn Chinese overseas. Additionally, learning Chinese has positively impacted the students' performance in American schools. Our program has demonstrated that an excellent Chinese school can and should play a critical role in the process of overseas Chinese children's growth.

Americans go to church on Sundays while the overseas Chinese, young and old, attend Chinese classes in all weather, what is that for? From the two decades of development of the Cambridge Chinese School, it's obvious that the Chinese school plays dual roles—a basis of Chinese education as well as an important bridge connecting Chinese and American people. And due to the selfless help from a number of parents and Chinese friends, a series of complementary organizations have flourished - art ensembles, parents' organizations, an alumni association, activity centers for the elderly, lecture series and table tennis club. The number of members has now reached more than a thousand. Take the XYH as an example. The 650 members actively carry out cultural exchanges with the Chinese community of the Greater Boston area and play an important role in facilitating the relationship between China and the USA.

In the past 20 years, we never show grief or regret towards what has been lost. Time and our achievements will show the value of everything we have accomplished. We left home and moved to America, but we do not feel lonely because Chinese culture has always been with us. The Chinese school has become the new home for the immigrants from China in the North American continent.

It takes a decade to grow trees, but a century to rear people. For the course of education, 20 years is just a moment in history. The Chinese education in the United States can be traced back a century to the late Qing Dynasty. Kwong Kow Chinese School, Newton Chinese Language School and Cambridge Chinese School in Boston area are the best examples of the Chinese people's development in America different historical periods. We encourage each other, hand down good tradition from generation to generation and jointly retain a Pure Land for the spread of traditional Chinese culture overseas.

I would like to take this opportunity of celebration and on behalf of the board of directors of the Cambridge Center for Chinese culture to express my sincere gratitude again toward the following First; my thanks go to the Massachusetts state government, City of Cambridge, City of Waltham, and all of our American friends. Without their spirit of democracy and tolerance for multi-culture, there would be no possibility for the existence of Cambridge Chinese School.

Next, I express my heartfelt thanks to the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of State Council, Ministry of Education of China, New York Consulate General and Chinese School Association in the USA. Without their support and help, the Cambridge Chinese School will not be what it is today.

I will also express my appreciation to Boston's Chinese community, partner schools and Chinese friends! After 20 years of ups and downs, we have jointly created a harmonious Boston Chinese community and provided a good learning environment for children.

Last but not the least, I'd like to express my sincere thanks to the board of directors of Cambridge Chinese Culture Center, the faculty, volunteers and parents of the school. There are only a few 20 years in one's life. I feel so fortunate to have met and worked with all of you in Boston in our efforts to establish the Cambridge Chinese School.

One falling leaf is indicative of the coming of autumn. The splendor of autumn is our hope for the next generation. Our school's story is just one example of the success of the hard work by our overseas Chinese community. We are convinced that being engaged in overseas Chinese education is a magnificent and lofty effort that can benefit innumerable generations. Let us continue to endeavor our best, for history will never forget what we have done here. The contribution made by us shall not perish from the world.

