

**Agreement
between
The Government of the People's Republic of China
and
The Government of the Hellenic Republic
on the Reciprocal Establishment of Cultural Centers**

The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hellenic Republic (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"), in order to enhance the friendly relations between the two countries and expand bilateral friendly cooperation in the cultural and people-to-people fields on the basis of mutual respect and trust, have agreed the following:

Article I

In accordance with the principle of reciprocity, the Government of the People's Republic of China will establish a China Cultural Center in Athens, and the Government of the Hellenic Republic will set up a Hellenic Cultural Center in Beijing.

On the basis of equality and mutual benefit, each Party shall facilitate the establishment and functioning of the Cultural Center of the other Party.

Article II

The purpose of the Cultural Centers is to fully enhance mutual understanding between the two peoples, enhance cultural collaboration, boost the development of friendly relations, and promote the exchange and cooperation of the two countries in the cultural and people-to-people fields.

Article III

The Cultural Centers shall be official cultural institutions of the respective Sending Party. The Cultural Centers shall operate under the supervision of the diplomatic mission of the respective Sending Party without being entitled to any diplomatic privileges and immunities.

Article IV

The Cultural Centers shall operate according to the laws and regulations in force of the Receiving Party.

In the organization of the activities stipulated in Article VI, the Cultural Centers may establish direct contacts with the state authorities, local authorities, legal entities and individuals of the Receiving Party.

Article V

Activities conducted by the Cultural Centers outside their premises, either independently or in collaboration with other entities, which are mentioned in Article VI of this Agreement, shall conform to the current laws and regulations of the Receiving Party, and the activity arrangements shall be notified to the competent authorities in advance and activities shall be carried out in compliance with the submitted arrangements.

The Parties agree that public of the Receiving Party shall be given unhindered access to the Cultural Centers and the activities conducted within and outside the premises of the Centers, and guarantee that the Cultural Centers use appropriate means in the exercise of their activities in compliance with the current laws and regulations of the Receiving Party.

Article VI

The Cultural Centers will carry out the following activities, in accordance with the laws and regulations in force of the Receiving Party:

1. Organizing various cultural activities in conformity with their tenet, including exhibitions, performances, seminars, lectures, screening of movies and other audio-visual products; exhibitions and screening of

- audio-visual products shall be subject to the regulations of the Receiving Party on exhibiting and spreading imported publications;
2. Promoting their respective languages and cultures by conducting various educational activities on their premises;
 3. Setting up libraries, reading rooms, screening rooms and multimedia spaces on their premises, and providing the general public of the Receiving Party with information services, including books, periodicals and other publications and audio-visual materials about the history and culture of the Sending Party;
 4. Promoting the information on the activities of the Cultural Centers, and introducing the public of the Receiving Party to the national history and modern development of the Sending Party, as well as its cultural, art, education and science and social life;
 5. Organizing other activities that are in conformity with the purpose of this Agreement.

Article VII

In compliance with the current laws and regulations of the Receiving Party, the Cultural Centers shall not engage in profit-seeking activities. However, the Cultural Centers shall have the right to charge appropriate fees for non-profit items listed as follows;

1. Performances, exhibitions and other cultural activities. The exhibitions shall be held in compliance with the regulations of the Receiving Party concerning the exhibition of imported publications;
2. Language and culture-related educational activities;
3. Catalogues, posters, playbills and other articles directly associated with the activities organized by the Cultural Centers;
4. Teahouses or cafés for the purpose of showcasing the traditional lifestyle of the Sending Party.

Article VIII

The Sending Party shall choose the site to open the Cultural Centers independently; The Receiving Party will in every possible way in accordance with its legislation, assist the Sending Party to rent or buy the premises of its Cultural Center.

The Sending Party, in accordance with the laws and regulations on construction and decoration of the Receiving Party, is responsible for

the design, construction, refurbishment and decoration of the buildings of its Cultural Center after acquiring building, refurbishment and decoration permits. The construction contractor(s) will be chosen and appointed by the Sending Party.

Article IX

The Cultural Centers, in compliance with the laws and regulations and related legislations and stipulations of the Receiving Parties, and on the basis of reciprocity, shall be exempted from custom duties and taxes except VAT for the below-mentioned items provided that they are not used for sale or seeking profit in the Receiving Parties:

- (1) Cultural equipment, furniture, facilities and office supplies required for the activities and daily administrative work of the Cultural Centers (motor vehicles not included);
- (2) Reasonable quantities of materials including picture albums, posters, playbills, books, discs, records, teaching equipments and various other forms of audio-visual products required for the organization of activities by the Cultural Centers;
- (3) Films to be screened on the premises of the Cultural Centers.

The above-mentioned items shall not be lent, leased, mortgaged, transferred, used for other purposes or dealt with by any means, unless otherwise approved by the customs authorities of the Receiving Parties.

Article X

The Cultural Centers are entitled to signing legal documents necessary for their functioning in the Receiving Party.

The Cultural Centers are entitled to open bank account(s) according to the relevant regulations of the Receiving Party.

Article XI

Income and property taxes due from the Cultural Centers and their personnel shall be levied in accordance with the domestic laws of the Receiving Party and the Agreement between The People's Republic of China and the Hellenic Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation

and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income of June 3, 2002.

The Parties shall also abide by any future amendment or supplement to the Agreement mentioned in the first paragraph of the present article.

Article XII

Members of the personnel of the Cultural Centers which are seconded by the Government of the Sending Party shall be nationals of that Party, holders of service passports and shall not enjoy any privilege or immunity on the territory of the Receiving Party. Other members of the personnel of the Cultural Centers may be citizens either of the Sending Party or of the Receiving Party.

The Parties shall inform each other about the appointment and removal of personnel in their respective Cultural Centers, and complete the related procedures according to the current laws and regulations of the Receiving Party in time.

Article XIII

Unless otherwise agreed, personnel of the Cultural Centers seconded by the Sending Party who are holders of service passports shall be subject to the labor and social security laws and regulations of the Sending Party; other personnel shall be subject to the labor and social security laws and regulations of the Receiving Party.

Article XIV

The Parties shall provide assistance and convenience to the personnel of the Cultural Centers and their spouses and children under the age of 18 in handling their entry and residence formalities.

Article XV

Any amendment to the Agreement shall be made with the mutual consent of the Parties following prior consultations and shall enter into force in accordance with the procedure set forth in the first paragraph of Article XVI.

Any disputes related to the implementation of this Agreement shall be resolved through mutual friendly consultations.

Article XVI

The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of delivery of the last notification by which the Parties inform each other, through diplomatic channels, that they have fulfilled their national legal procedures for ratification.

This Agreement shall remain in force for five years and shall automatically be renewed for successive five year periods unless one Party notifies the other Party in writing, through diplomatic channels, of its intention to terminate it, at least 6 months prior to the expiration of its initial or any subsequent period of validity.

Done in duplicate in.. Athens... on... 19... June.., 2014, in two original copies, each in Chinese, Greek, and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**For the Government of
the People's Republic of China**



**For the Government of
the Hellenic Republic**

