

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
FOR MUTUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF CULTURAL CENTERS**

The government of the People's Republic of China and the government of the Republic of Bulgaria, hereinafter referred to as the "Parties", led by their desire to improve the friendly relations between the two countries and to extend the cooperation in the field of culture and education, on the basis of mutual respect and trust, in pursuance of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria on the Reciprocal Establishment of Cultural Centers, signed in Beijing on 13 January, 2014, agreed for the following:

ARTICLE I

The Chinese party will open a Chinese cultural center in Sofia and on a reciprocal basis the Bulgarian party will open a Bulgarian cultural center in Beijing.

ARTICLE II

The Parties undertake to further, in compliance with the principle of reciprocity and mutual benefit, the establishment, opening and functioning of a Chinese cultural center in Sofia and a Bulgarian cultural center in Beijing, hereinafter referred to as the "cultural centers".

The Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China shall be responsible for the opening and functioning of a Chinese cultural center in Sofia on behalf of the government of the People's Republic of China.

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria shall be responsible for the opening and functioning of a Bulgarian cultural center in Beijing on behalf of the government of the Republic of Bulgaria.

ARTICLE III

The principle basis of the cultural centers shall be the improvement of the mutual understanding between the Chinese and Bulgarian peoples, the encouragement of the cultural cooperation and the strengthening of the friendly relations between the two countries, as well as the encouragement of the cooperation and exchange between the two countries in the field of culture and the contacts between the people.

ARTICLE IV

The cultural centers shall carry out their activities on the basis of this Agreement and in compliance with the legislation of the accepting party. The Parties note the fact that in the case of Bulgaria the domestic legislation also includes the legislation of the European Union.

Upon carrying out its activities, whose contents are described in Article V, the cultural centers can establish direct relations with government institutions, local authorities, lawful non-government organizations, legal entities and physical persons of the accepting party.

ARTICLE V

The cultural centers shall perform the following functions in compliance with the legislation of the accepting party:

1. Organization of various cultural activities in keeping with their principles, including exhibitions, performances, seminars, lectures and screenings of films and other audiovisual products; exhibitions of imported publications and screenings of other audiovisual products in compliance with the by-laws of the accepting party concerning imported publications and displaying and distribution of imported publications;
2. Encouragement of the study of their respective languages and cultures by means of carrying out various educational activities in the premises of the centers;
3. Establishment of libraries, reading rooms, screening rooms and multimedia rooms within the cultural centers and provision to the general public of the accepting party with information services, including books, periodicals and other publications and audiovisual materials about the sending party;
4. Furtherance of the provision of information about the activities of the cultural centers and presentation to the general public of the accepting party of the national history and the present-day development of the sending party, as well as its culture, art, education, science and public life;
5. Organization of other activities which are in compliance with the principle basis of this Agreement.

ARTICLE VI

The activities carried out by the cultural centers outside their premises, whether independently or in cooperation with other organizations, which are stated in article V of this Agreement, shall be in compliance with the legislation of the accepting party and the agreements concerning such activities shall be communicated in advance to the competent authorities, and the activities shall be carried out in compliance with the presented agreements.

The Parties agree that the accepting party shall be granted unhindered access to the cultural centers and the activities carried out within and outside the premises of the centers and that it shall be guaranteed that the cultural centers use appropriate means for advertizing their activities in compliance with the legislation of the accepting party.

ARTICLE VII

In compliance with the legislation of the accepting party the cultural centers shall not engage in economic activities. However, the cultural centers shall be entitled to impose appropriate fees for the following non-economic positions listed below:

1. Performances, exhibitions and other cultural activities. Exhibitions shall be held in compliance with the by-laws of the accepting party concerning the import of publications and the displaying of imported publications;
2. Language and culture-related educational activities;
3. Catalogs, posters, placards and other items directly related to the activities organized by the cultural centers;
4. Tea-rooms and cafeterias for the purposes of presenting the traditional way of life of the sending party.

ARTICLE VIII

The cultural centers shall be entitled to enter into legal documents necessary for their functioning in the accepting party.

The cultural centers can open a bank account/s in compliance with the relevant by-laws of the accepting party.

ARTICLE IX

The Parties shall choose the sites for opening of cultural centers in compliance with the laws of the accepting party, following the receipt of approval from the competent authorities of the accepting party. The terms and conditions for renting or purchasing of premises, buildings, plots and other similar assets shall be determined in compliance with the effective legislation of the accepting party.

The sending party, in compliance with the laws and by-laws for construction and layout of the accepting party, shall be responsible for the design, construction, renovation and layout of the buildings of its cultural center. Any and all construction, repair, installation and other similar activities related to the cultural centers shall be carried out following the receipt of proper permits/documents from the competent authorities of the accepting party, as well as shall be in compliance with the statutory rules of the accepting party.

ARTICLE X

Each party, in compliance with the principle of reciprocity and with its national legislation, undertakes to release the cultural centers from import duties/custom duties for items listed below, provided that they are not used for sale or seeking profit in the accepting party:

1. Equipment for cultural activities, office equipment, furniture and stationery intended for the daily administrative work of the cultural centers (excluding motor vehicles);

2. Reasonable quantities of materials, including albums, posters, placards, books, CDs, records, training equipment and visual and audio materials for the activities of cultural centers:

3. Films for screening in the premises of the cultural centers;

The above stated items cannot be rented, leased, mortgaged, transferred, used for other purposes or disposed of with any other means, unless it has been approved by the customs authorities of the accepting party.

ARTICLE XI

The income and property tax regime applicable to the cultural centers and their personnel is subject to the effective laws and legislation of the accepting party, as well as to the provisions of Agreement between the government of the People's Republic of China and the government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital, signed on 6 November 1989, and of the Protocol between the government of the People's Republic of China and the government of the Republic of Bulgaria for amending and supplementing the above stated Agreement, signed on 15 July 2002 in Sofia.

The Parties shall also comply with any future amendments or supplements to the Agreement specified in this article.

ARTICLE XII

The personnel of the cultural centers appointed by the government of the sending party shall consist of citizens of the sending party who are holders of official passports. Other personnel appointed and employed in the cultural centers can include citizens of the sending party and of the accepting party.

The Parties undertake to notify each other of the appointment and release of personnel in its respective cultural center and to duly fulfill the procedures related thereto in compliance with the effective laws and by-laws of the accepting party.

ARTICLE XIII

Unless otherwise agreed, the members of the personnel of the cultural centers appointed by the sending party, who have official passports, are the subject of the by-laws in the field of employment and social security of the sending party, and the remaining personnel is the subject of the by-laws in the field of employment and social security of the accepting party.

ARTICLE XIV

The personnel of the cultural centers delegated by the sending party who are service passport holders to work in the accepting party shall acquire relevant visas in advance. The Parties undertake to provide cooperation and comfort to the personnel of the cultural centers and their spouses and children below 18 years of age, who are sent by the

sending party and have official passports, upon performance of the formalities on entering and staying in the country concerning the same.

ARTICLE XV

Any and all amendments to the Agreement shall be in writing by mutual consent of the Parties following preliminary consultations and shall come into effect in compliance with the requirements listed in para.1 of article XVI of this Agreement.

Any and all disputes related to the implementation of this Agreement shall be settled by mutual consultations.

ARTICLE XVI

1 The Agreement shall come into effect as from the date of receipt of the last written notice with which the Parties inform each other through diplomatic channels that the requirements of their national legislations, which are necessary for its entering into effect, have been complied with.

2. This Agreement shall be concluded for a period of 5 (five) years and its duration shall be extended automatically for each following five-year period, unless any party under the same denounces it with a written notice not later than six months prior to the expiry of its duration.

Signed in Sofia on *of 12.11.*, 2015 in two original counterparts, each one in Chinese, Bulgarian and English language; all texts shall be equally authentic. In the event of any differences in the interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

刘军树刚

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

