

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

The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Belarus (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"), in order to enhance 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, and noting 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 Belarus signed on September 27, 2014 in Minsk, have reached agreements as follows:

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 Minsk, and the Government of the Republic of Belarus will establish a Cultural Center of the Republic of Belarus in Beijing.

The Parties shall provide convenience for the establishment and functioning of each other's Cultural Centers on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

Article II

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

Article III

The Cultural Centers shall function on the basis of this Agreement in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Receiving Party.

Article IV

In compliance with the current laws and regulations of the Receiving Party, the functions of the Cultural Centers are:

1. organizing various cultural activities in conformity with their aims, including exhibitions, performances, seminars, lectures, and screening of movies and other audio-visual products; exhibitions of imported publications and screening of audio-visual products shall be subject to the regulations of the Receiving Party on imported publications and the exhibition and spreading of 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 the premises within the Cultural Centers, 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. publicizing information on the activities of the Cultural Centers, and introducing to the public of the Receiving Party the national history and modern development of the Sending Party, as well as its culture, art, education, science and social life in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Receiving Party;
5. organizing other activities that are in conformity with the tenet of this Agreement in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Receiving Party.

Article V

In the organization of the activities stipulated in Article IV, the Cultural Centers may establish direct contacts with the state authorities, local authorities, official organizations, legal entities and individuals of the Receiving Party only in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Receiving Party.

Activities conducted by the Cultural Centers outside their premises, either independently or in collaboration with other entities, which are mentioned in Article IV 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 to function in compliance with the current laws and regulations of the Receiving Party.

Article VI

The Cultural Centers shall not engage in profit-seeking activities. However, the Cultural Centers shall have the right to appropriate fees for the items listed as follows to cover its costs:

1. performances, exhibitions and other cultural activities. The exhibitions shall be held in compliance with the regulations of the Receiving Party concerning import of publications and the exhibition of imported publications;
2. language and culture-related educational activities;
3. catalogues, posters, playbills and other items directly associated with the activities organized by the Cultural Centers.

Article VII

The Parties, in compliance with the laws and regulations of the Receiving Party, and on the basis of reciprocity, shall provide mutual assistance in choosing the site to open the Cultural Centers, renting, purchasing or building their premises.

The Sending Party, in accordance with the laws and regulations 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) shall be determined by the Sending Party.

Article VIII

The Cultural Centers, in compliance with the related laws and regulations of the Receiving Party and on the basis of reciprocity, shall be exempted from custom duties and taxes (with the exception of entrance duty) for the below-mentioned items provided that they are not used for sale or seeking profit in the Receiving Party considering article VI of this Agreement:

1. cultural equipment required by the Cultural Centers for their daily work (motor vehicles not included);
2. reasonable quantities of materials including picture albums, posters, playbills, books, discs, records, teaching equipment 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 exemption from custom duties and taxes shall take place on condition that the list of necessary items and their specification is submitted for approval to the authorized organization of the Receiving Party.

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 Party.

Article IX

Income and property taxes due from the Cultural Centers and their personnel shall be levied in accordance with the current laws and regulations of the Receiving Party and the Agreement signed between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Belarus for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital on January 17, 1995.

Article X

Personnel delegated by the Government of the Sending Party shall be nationals of the Sending Party and holders of service passports. Other personnel employed by the Cultural Centers can be citizens of the Sending Party or the Receiving Party.

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

Article XI

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

Article XII

The Parties shall provide assistance and convenience to the personnel of the Cultural Centers delegated by the Sending Party who are holders of service passports, and their spouses and children under age of 18 in handling their entry and residence formalities:

Provide assistance in registration of entry documents, sojourn permits and other permits which are necessary for the family members of the personnel of the Cultural Centers for their residence on the territory of the Receiving Party.

Article XIII

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

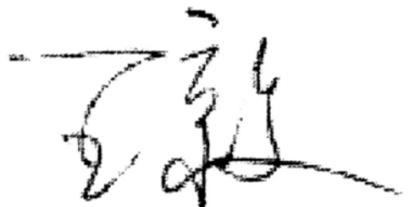
Article XIV

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

This Agreement shall remain in force for five years and shall automatically be renewed for successive five-year periods unless either Party notifies the other 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 *Minsk* on *May 10th*, 2015, in the Chinese, Russian 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 Republic of Belarus**

