

OPENING REMARKS II: XIUJIE ZHU

Good morning! On behalf of Hohai University in Nanjing, China, I welcome you all to this collaborative workshop on Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion. I have two other colleagues with me—Professor Shaojun Chen and Dr. Yanhua Wu—who arrived in Vancouver yesterday just to attend this international workshop. We have two other colleagues from China Three Gorges University—Professor Peter Duan and Dr. Kevin Zhao—who are attending this workshop and will then join the 2019 Congress at the University of British Columbia next week.

Dr. Habiba Zaman has been committed to promoting exchange and collaboration between our universities. She was honored as visiting professor and senior advisor to our Center in September 2016. She visited us in Hohai twice, where she delivered seminars and public lectures and conducted our first ever International Graduate Students' Workshop in 2018.

This international workshop is an outcome of the collaborative efforts between Hohai University of Jiangsu Province in China and Simon Fraser University of British Columbia in Canada. The partnership began when Professor Habiba Zaman visited Hohai University during her study leave in 2016. Later on, both universities signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2017, and the duration of this MOU extends up to five years. We hope to do more collaborative projects under the MOU. As Director of the Research Center for Gender and Development at Hohai University, it is my great pleasure to be part of this historic event.

On this special occasion, I would like to provide a brief history of Hohai University. The history of Hohai University can be traced back to the establishment of Hohai Civil Engineering School, which was founded in 1915 by Zhang Jian, a famous industrialist and educator in China's modern history. It was the first higher education institution that focused on water conservancy in China. Currently, Hohai University is a multi-disciplinary institution affiliated directly with the Ministry of Education in China as a central university.

The Research Center for Gender and Development of Hohai University was founded in 2010. The Center became a member of the Chinese Women's Research Society in 2012. The Center is one of the 32 "Women and Gender Research and Training Base" members of the All China Women's Federation/Chinese Women's Research Society. It aims to provide an open and cohesive platform for students, teachers, and scholars interested in social gender study through scientific research, teaching, and training. Currently, the Center is supported by the School of Public Administration, School of Law, School of Marxism, College of International Languages and Cultures, and Social Development Research Institute. The Center organizes cross-disciplinary academic exchanges, conferences, lectures, and training courses.

The Center was originally led by Professor Shi Guoqing and co-directed by me. I am very pleased and proud to represent the Center as well as Hohai University today. I thank

Simon Fraser University—especially the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, GSWS Chair Professor Lara Campbell, Professor Habiba Zaman, and GSWS Manager Roberta Neilson—for making this workshop happen. I also thank you all for your participation at the workshop.

The theme of this workshop, “Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion,” cannot be stressed enough for its importance and timeliness. The workshop will contribute to the continuing cooperation and exchange between our two universities. We will bring an innovative spirit and a pragmatic attitude to our work to promote further collaboration in the future. Thanks, and welcome again!

Dr. Xiujie Zhu
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