

Preface

Hubei University in Wuhan, China, observed the grand opening of the International Conference related to transnational corporations, investment and trade relations between Emerging Economies and the United States in this October. Now I, on behalf of the University, the organizer of this conference, offer a hearty congratulation on this opening and thanks for all participated experts and students at home and from abroad.

As one of key comprehensive universities administrated by the People's Government and Ministry of Education of Hubei Province, Hubei University has been in its 84th anniversary. The University established 18 academic faculties offering 77 undergraduate programs, 5 doctoral degrees in first-level disciplines, 22 master's degrees in first-level disciplines and 14 master's degrees in authorized special disciplines. There are 20,000 full-time undergraduates and college students, and over 4700 postgraduates. Hubei University attracts more than 1100 full-time teachers. Among them, there are 600 professors and associate professors and nearly 200 high-level talents subjected to Cheung Kong scholars and Thousand Talents Program. The University has established academic exchanges and cooperation relationship with more than 100 universities and research institutions in over 30 countries and regions. It has established two Confucius Institutes in cooperation with the United States and Brazil.

As the largest college, our Business School at the University who is hosting this conference covers two major disciplines of economics and management. It has doctoral degrees in first-level disciplines and post-doctoral stations of theoretical economics, master's degrees in first-level disciplines of theoretical economics and business administration, 4 professional master's degrees, and 10 undergraduate programs. There're also 2 provincial key disciplines and some national and provincial excellent courses. In recent years, the Business School has gained outstanding results in discipline construction, personnel training, and scientific research.

Currently, though the United States is still the engine of the world economy, emerging-markets have become the main driving force of international economic growth by raising its contributions. As a major factor during the development of the world economy, we believe that strengthening international economic activities in emerging-markets can benefit both developed and developing countries. Researching transnational corporations, foreign investment and international trade relations has become important for emerging economies including China.

The Business School has gained fruitful research achievements by fully and systematically researching relevant issues and well-received. The School has been actively preparing this international conference under such a context. I believe its opening has both practical significance and academic values. It attracts and gathers numerous domestic and international well-known experts and scholars to share research achievements and discuss relevant issues.

This conference forms a dialogue of academic knowledge. We are deeply honored to organize this conference with the American Economic Association in China and the Editorial Department of *Transnational Corporations Review* in Canada to serve all of you. Again, on behalf of the University, allow me toalso express our sincere gratitude to the work done by the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment at Columbia University at the United States, one of the initiators and the sponsor of this conference. I believe this international conference, especially under the leadership and support of Chinese and foreign experts could further promote a greater development in the relevant research fields and disciplines.

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