**Congratulatory Letter**

On the occasion of the first ever global Confucius Institute Day, I would like to extend my heart-felt congratulations on behalf of the Chinese government and in my own name!

In today’s world, we see deepened economic globalization and cultural diversity. To enhance exchanges and learning between various cultures and to strengthen the understanding among peoples of different countries are important approaches to push forward the advancement of civilization and the progress of society. During the past 10 years, Confucius Institute made teaching Chinese language and introducing Chinese culture as her mission, took into account local circumstances and needs, played a significant role in boosting people-to-people exchange between China and different countries, and promoting mutual understanding and friendship between Chinese people and citizens of other countries.

I wish that Confucius Institutes will move forward in accordance with the principle of “mutual respect, friendly discussion, equality and mutual benefit”, continue the model of collaboration between educational institutions in China and abroad, constantly improve the quality of teaching and administration, deepen the exchange of Chinese and foreign cultures, inherit and carry forward the philosophy of “harmony is most precious” and “harmony without uniformity”, and make even greater contributions to enhancing civilization diversity and the harmonious advancement of peoples in the world.

Li Keqiang
Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China
September 26, 2014