

BP International Education Park Foundation Ceremony
Speech by Dr. Chan Po-king

Good morning and thank you for coming today to the foundation ceremony of our BP International Education Park.

We are particularly honoured to have distinguished guests from government agencies, various embassies and business chambers with us at this landmark event. And of course, it is always a pleasure to have so many colleagues, parents, and students celebrating with us today.

This is indeed a very special occasion for our organisation, because it represents a significant milestone in our history, marking the beginning of a new era of international education development, pioneered by Yew Chung and Yew Wah. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the leaders of the Beijing, Daxing, and Yizhuang governments for their steadfast support of this project.

The BP International Education Park will have two schools on site: Yew Chung International School (YCIS) and Yew Wah International Education School. Both share the same international education philosophy, and are committed to nurturing and empowering the next generation of leaders in today's globalised world. Our unique education programmes represent the best of both Eastern and Western cultures and values, equipping our students with a truly global mindset. We also actively promote strong biliteracy skills in Chinese and English, and place great emphasis on students' character formation and personal growth.

The age of globalisation is a reality and technology has transformed our daily lives. The balance of economic power is moving to the East, especially after the financial tsunami. This confluence of forces represents a paradigm shift that is affecting people in all professions, industries and fields of endeavor, and education, of course, is no exception.

Establishing the first BP International Education Park in the city of Beijing has great significance. As the capital of the People's Republic of China, Beijing leads the nation in the field of education. The city is also an ideal location for people from overseas to learn about China's rich history. It is the meeting place of the East and the West.

This Yizhuang project represents our first-ever endeavour in creating an International Education Park, which effectively integrates quality learning and living, providing

unparalleled opportunities for educational and cultural exchange between the international and local communities.

I hope you'll agree that it's an exciting project and one which YCIS and Yew Wah are very proud to be associated with, especially as we celebrate our 80th anniversary this year.

Thank you for coming today, and thank you for your support.

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Speech by Prof. Yip Kwok-wah

First, I must thank all our distinguished and honourable guests who have come from around China and other countries for this foundation ceremony for the BP International Education Park. China is experiencing a rapid economic development which is bringing great changes in the material standards and lifestyles of the Chinese people. Currently, China's GDP ranks second in the world (more than US\$7 trillion), overtaking Japan. By 2020, the average years of education received by Chinese will be 11.55 years, whereas the average in the United States will be at 11.5 years. The average lifespan of Chinese will reach 77 years, close to the 80 years average in the United States. China's GHDI (Generalized Human Development Index) will also be at the forefront of the world, almost equal to that of the United States. The IMF estimates the Chinese economy will have more than eight per cent growth rate in 2012 and 2013.

The 12th Five Year Plan is shifting China's economic development model from an export oriented one to one based on domestic demand. This signals further improvement in people's lives and the culture of China. Our organisation sees that education directly influences the relationship between international life and education, and culture and lifestyle. A rapidly developing society and an emerging globalised world require an education model that prepares young people to become citizens of a world very different from today's. We were the first organisation to build international schools in China during the early 1990s and the achievements are obvious. Today is the beginning of another historic stage.

Education should reflect and guide changes in lifestyle and culture. The BP International Education Park aims to educate people on the quality of life in a globalising society. The BP

International Education Park will be constructed in several phases. Two schools will serve as anchors representing the East and the West. The Yew Wah International Education School is designed mainly for local citizens while the Yew Chung International School caters for expatriates. In addition, the Scholars International Conference Centre which provides life education, as well as various sports, arts and cultural facilities will be at the heart of the IEP.

The first phase, scheduled to be completed in 2013, will provide a new international living style for students, teachers, communities of the Yizhuang Economic and Technological Development Area and the Daxing District, and overseas returnees to Beijing. Education, music, culture, arts, sports, entertainment, leisure facilities and services will be accessible to all.

The objectives of the BP International Education Park are to educate students to become outstanding international citizens and outstanding nationals, and to bring about improvement in culture and material civilisation. Constructing the BP International Education Park represents a small part of the great modernisation of China.

Thank you very much!