

## **Transformation & Innovation: toward a Dialogical Civilization**

Creative transformation and innovative evolution are not only major problems encountered by Chinese civilization but also conundrums faced by all other civilizations in the present world. The rapid shift of time and space impels every civilization to continuously renew itself in bid to preserve its vigor and vitality. Symbiosis and mutual assimilation become manifestly mandatory among civilizations. In the two crossed dimensions of ancient-present and China-West, all extant world civilizations will inevitably undergo the aforementioned evolutionary process, which should by no means be purposeless, but be consciously and conscientiously guided by human—the responsible moral subject of every civilization. The imminent task of current human beings is to leverage the strengths and creatively transform the core values of their own traditions, which therefore could be moulded to encompass the profound history as well as newly emerged and emerging modern concepts. Hopefully every human civilization will be able to fully demonstrate its unique ethos while being harmoniously integrated into the confluence of world civilizations.

The future civilization ought not to be self-confined or isolated, nor to be involved in antagonism or clashing, but to be dialogical instead. Based on civilizational dialogues, the dialogical civilization enables every civilization to become aware of its own weaknesses and appreciative of the values of other civilizations through dialogue. The civilizational evolution is not defined as one civilization conquers another or a small number of civilizations dominating the trend of world civilization, but as a course of diverse civilizations jointly shaping their destinies and sharing prosperity. Under this practice, every civilization will voluntarily open itself, improve itself, and consummately embark on dialogical civilization. The drastic turbulences in the past centuries have prompted the urgent need for human beings to construct a mechanism for civilizational dialogues—a significant step toward dialogical civilization. Transformation and innovation stand here as two crucial factors for this step.