

Health and Wellbeing Silk Road Conference: Innovation, Cooperation, Health, Tourism

Dear Ambassador Zhao Bentang,

Dear Ambassador José Duarte,

Dear President of the New Silk Road Friends Association, Fernanda Ilhéu,

Dear Prof. Joaquim Alvarelhão, Health School of the University of Aveiro,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the University of Aveiro. And it is a great pleasure for me to participate in this Health and Wellbeing Silk Road Conference.

Universities are knowledge producers. But science is collaborative, and universities must cooperate with each other to solve problems, to create or apply knowledge or to facilitate access to the means to achieve it.

In the age of globalisation, making international collaboration and cooperation a strategic goal in the context of a university that looks outward towards the world is essential. The establishment of new collaboration networks with China and the development or consolidation of existing ones is stimulating the growth of the Aveiro Academy and contributing to its affirmation on the international scene.

The relations that the University of Aveiro has been fostering with numerous Chinese organisations and higher education institutions have proven to be of the greatest importance for us.

We realised the importance of the relationship with China in the 1980s when the

Department of Ceramic and Glass Engineering, now called the Department of Materials and Ceramics Engineering, received several Chinese researchers.

Almost four decades later, the ties that unite the University of Aveiro and China are stronger than ever, and our interaction extended to many other areas. Consolidated reciprocal relations have been maintained with more than two dozen Chinese universities and institutes.

Nevertheless, our ties to China are not limited to this. The University of Aveiro is a national reference as far as cultural and linguistic exchanges between Portugal and China are concerned.

The University of Aveiro has shown a strong commitment both in the teaching of Mandarin in the Portuguese community and in the teaching of Portuguese to Chinese students. There are many Portuguese, undergraduate and junior high school students, as well as businesspeople, who have learned to write and speak Chinese since the teaching of Mandarin was first introduced here. Many Chinese students

also come to the University of Aveiro every year to learn Portuguese.

The University of Aveiro was also a pioneer in the area of Chinese Studies, with the establishment of the Centre for Asian Studies in 1997 and the Master's degree in Chinese Studies in 1998.

In April of 2015 the University of Aveiro began to host the Confucius Institute. It has been an important centre of diffusion of Chinese language and culture in Portugal. The prize "Confucius Institute of the Year", awarded in 2018, recognised their undeniable dedication to the dissemination of Chinese culture.

The "Belt and Road" initiative, inspired by the ancient Silk Road that for centuries linked China by land and sea to Western markets, has revived the cultural and economic cooperation of those times and has opened prospects for more intense cooperation with tangible benefits for everyone.

This Health and Wellbeing New Silk Road Conference addresses one crucial dimension of this cooperation: Health. It is an important and timely opportunity to reflect about a Health Global System, to identify cooperation opportunities in this broad area, of very high strategic importance for the University of Aveiro, and in related areas.

The expression Health Silk Road goes back to 2015 and was reinforced by the President of the People's Republic of China in 2017. It gained a new meaning after the COVID-19 pandemic, as a way of building what President Xi Jinping called the "community of common health for mankind".

In fact, the President of the People's Republic of China had pointed out in 2014 the need to build four bridges across the Eurasian continent: a bridge of peace and stability; a bridge of growth and prosperity; a bridge of reform and progress; and a bridge of common cultural prosperity.

May the University of Aveiro and China continue to contribute to the establishment of these bridges.

I wish all of you a fruitful conference.

Thank you

Paulo Jorge Ferreira

丝绸健康之路国际会议：创新、合作、健康旅游

尊敬的赵本堂大使：

尊敬的何塞·杜阿尔特大使，

亲爱的新丝绸之路协会主席费尔南达·伊列乌（Fernanda Ilhéu），

尊敬的阿威罗大学健康学校的若阿金·阿尔瓦拉良教授，

女士们先生们：

非常欢迎各位来到阿威罗大学。我非常荣幸能够参加这次健康丝绸之路大会。

大学是知识的生产者。但是科学是不可或缺的，大学们必须建立合作，解决问题，创造并应用知识或开拓获得知识的途径。

在全球化时代，将国际协作与合作作为一项面向全球各个大学的战略目标至关重要。与中国建立新的合作网络以及发展或巩固现有的合作网络都可以促进阿威罗学院的发展，并为其在国际舞台上获得肯定做出了贡献。

阿威罗大学与众多中国院校和高等教育机构建立的合作关系对我们而言极其重要。

上个世纪 80 年代，我们就意识到了与中国建立关系的重要性，当时陶瓷与玻璃工程学院（现称材料与陶瓷工程学院）就接待了几位来自中国的研究人员。

大约四十年后，阿威罗大学与中国的关系纽带比以往任何时候都更加牢固，我们的文化交流也扩展到许多其他领域。阿威罗大学与中国的十几所大学和学院都建立了并保持着坚固的合作关系。

然而，我们与中国的关系不仅限于此。就葡萄牙和中国之间的文化和语言交流而言，阿威罗大学是葡萄牙许多高校的模范。

阿威罗大学在面向葡萄牙语人的汉语教学以及面向中国人的葡萄牙语教学中都表现出了坚定的承诺。自从阿威罗大学首次引入汉语教学以来，每年都有许多葡萄牙本科生和初中生以及商人学习汉语。每年也都有许多中国学生来阿威罗大学学习葡萄牙语。

阿威罗大学也是中国研究领域的先驱。1997 年亚洲研究中心成立，中国研究硕士学位也于 1998 年开设。

2015 年 4 月，阿威罗大学建立了孔子学院。从那之后，阿威罗大学孔院一直都是葡萄牙汉语和中国文化传播的中心。2018 年颁发的“年度最佳孔子学院”奖表彰了孔院对传播中国文化的毋庸置疑的奉献精神。

“一带一路”倡议的灵感来自古丝绸之路，它通过陆路与海路把中国与西方市场联系起来，它复兴了那个时代的文化和经济合作，并为可以造福每个人的紧密合作开辟了道路。

这次健康丝绸之路大会将探讨这种合作的一个关键点：健康。这是一个重要而及时的机会，可以对全球卫生系统进行反思，确定在这一领域的合作机会对阿威罗大学及其相关领域的研究具有非常重要的战略意义。

“健康丝绸之路”这一表述可以追溯到 2015 年，并在 2017 年得到了中国习主席的支持。在冠状病毒大流行之后，它有了新的含义，以此来构建习近平总统所说的“人类卫生健康共同体”。

实际上，习近平主席在 2014 年指出，需要在欧亚大陆架起四座桥梁：和平与稳定的桥梁；成长与繁荣的桥梁；改革与进步的桥梁；文化繁荣的桥梁。

希望阿威罗大学和中国大学继续为建立这些桥梁做出贡献。

祝大家会议圆满成功。

谢谢！

保罗·豪尔赫·费雷拉