

Speeches at the Opening Ceremony

Mr. Xi Chen

Executive Vice-President

China Association for Science and Technology

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The 23rd International Congress of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics opens today in Beijing, China. It is a great meeting in the global field of mechanics as well as a joyous event for China's mechanics. On behalf of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), I'd like to extend my warm congratulations upon this congress and my most sincere welcome to the guests and delegates from all over the world.

The effect of forces and the motion of objects are the most basic and common phenomena in nature and human activities, which determines the fact that mechanics plays a fundamental and leading role in the knowledge system of science and technology. Many subdisciplines of mathematics and astronomy have developed to explain mechanical behaviors more accurately, and physics can be said to originate from mechanics. Mechanics is also a very practical discipline, which is most widely applied. Newton's theory of classical mechanics is the lever of the industrial revolution, leading us into a breathtaking era. Modern mechanics not only is the guide in aerospace engineering, but also promotes the further development of energy and environmental engineering, marine and offshore technology, petrochemistry, materials, information, biomedicine, etc., changing our life in an unprecedented way.

Nowadays, when technological revolution is deeply integrated with industrial transform, many developed countries choose to achieve re-industrialization through advanced science and technology. Today in China, as the development of industrialization, informatization, urbanization, marketization and globalization, to upgrade our capability of independent innovation and to build an innovative country have become the key to our country's development strategy, and the key to improve our comprehensive national strength. Our current situation offers strong and actual demand for the innovative development of modern mechanics. ICTAM2012, held in Beijing, provides a platform for the scientists and engineers in mechanics from China and abroad to show their update achievements and to learn from each other. It certainly will play a positive role in promoting the rapid development of mechanics in China.

China Association for Science and Technology is an association for scientific and technical personnel. The Chinese Society of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (CSTAM) is an important member of CAST. CSTAM is a major force to promote the development, popularization and application of mechanics in China and to promote the training and development of mechanics talents. CAST will, as we always do, support all kinds of technological associations including CSTAM, joining international academic organizations and playing active role in them. CAST will continue to support the exchange and discussion between scientists from China and abroad and cooperate closely with other countries to contribute to the enrichment of human knowledge and the welfare of the world.

Finally, I wish the 23rd International Congress of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics a great success.

May all of you enjoy your stay in Beijing!

Thanks.

Professor Peiwen Ji
Executive Deputy Director

Department of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, National Natural Science Foundation of China

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Delegates, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today, the 23rd International Congress of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics is solemnly opened at Beijing's China National Convention Center. Commissioned by Chen Yiyu, the President of National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), and on behalf of NSFC, I would like to express our warm congratulations on the convening of the Congress, and warm welcome to all the delegates.

Mechanics is an old and reinvigorating discipline. It plays an irreplaceable role in the evolution course of history that the human understand the natural law, and in the acceleration of social development. With the joint efforts of all the scientific research personnel for mechanics in the world, modern mechanics still plays a vital role in the human beings' understanding of the natural law, and in the acceleration towards social and economic development. Today, mechanicians from all over the world gather together, exchange the progress of all the fields of the mechanics, and discuss the future development. The Congress must have a big significance on the future further development of mechanics.

I am glad to see that under the strong support of Chinese government, with the efforts by Chinese mechanicians in the exchanges and cooperation with international counterparts, and assisted by the International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, China's mechanics research has made significant development, played a unique role in the human beings' understanding on the natural law and in the acceleration on the social and economic development, and made great contribution to the promotion of mechanics study.

National Natural Science Foundation of China, under the Chinese State Council, is the major funding institution devoted to the financial support for the basic science research in China. It is responsible for pushing the development of basic research of natural science, promoting the construction of fundamental disciplines, encouraging academic exchanges, and cultivating outstanding talents. National Natural Science Foundation of China dedicates to encourage international cooperation and communication. The scientific research is the international cause, and any nationality cannot achieve success with isolation from other countries or regions. By this Congress, Chinese researchers of mechanics not only introduce the newest research progress to international mechanics community, but also will learn from the international mechanics colleagues. This Congress will be a grand meeting to enhance friendship and to promote academic exchange and mechanics development.

Dear guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Chinese government always dedicates to promote the development of scientific cause, world peace and economic prosperity. Under the good circumstances of China's deepening reform and opening up for economy and politics, Chinese scientists will get more involved in the world scientific cause. One of the most important missions for the scientific funding institution is to search for the subject frontier with scientists, and to search, create and accumulate the scientific knowledge, ability, and technology that benefit to the human beings. I believe that, along with the development of Chinese society and economy made by the Chinese scientists, they will work together with the scientists from all over the countries and make greater contribution to the cause for scientific development and the progress of human civilization.

Finally, I wish the Congress a complete success!

Wish you all the best in your work and a pleasant stay in Beijing.

Thanks!

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