

**Speech at the BRAK & LAWASIA Belt & Road Webinar August, 26,  
2021**

by Yin Baohu, co-chair of the LAWASIA Belt & Road Committee; EXCO  
member of LAWASIA

Dear Mr. Christian Lemke, Vice President of the German Federal Bar

Dear colleagues:

It's a great honor for me to say a few opening remarks here. Let me first congratulate the German Federal Bar and LAWASIA, together with the LAWASIA Belt & Road Committee, for opening of this Webinar. My thanks should be particularly given to Ms. Swetlana Schaworonkova, to Mr. Jeff Leong and to LAWASIA Secretariate staff, who have been working hard for achieving such a wonderful webinar program and successful mobilizing of more than 200 registrants. I would also like to express my gratitude to all speakers who will share with us their experiences and insights on topics under the title of the webinar " The One Belt One Road Initiative- Across Central Asia to Europe. "

As the world economy and social development have been deeply affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic, China has adopted a series of measures and policies, as were elaborated by China's President Xi Jinping on 18 June 2020 at the High-level Video Conference on Belt and Road International Cooperation, which aim to “work with international partners to develop the Belt and Road into a model of cooperation for meeting challenges through unity, a model of health for protecting people's safety and well-being, a model of recovery for restoring economic and social activity, and a model of growth for unlocking development potential”.

The time of the pandemic highlights the importance of jointly constructing a Health Silk Road. Based on the ideology of building a community with a shared future for mankind, China launched the largest humanitarian campaign since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, providing billions of masks, protective suits, testing kits and other medical equipments and materials to the outside world including Belt and Road countries. China has also developed measures in response to COVID-19 by promoting new industries and business models such as Internet medical service, online shopping and sharing economies etc.

Despite the headwinds during COVID-19, Belt and Road cooperation has not paused, but forged ahead with new outcomes, strong resilience

and great vitality. Trading between China and the Belt and Road economies has been expanding. Outbound investment maintains growth. Silk Road E-commerce has created new highlights. According to the Ministry of Commerce of China, from January to June 2021, Chinese enterprises made non-financial direct investment worth 62 billion yuan in 55 countries along the “Belt and Road”, up 8.6% (equivalent to 9.58 billion U.S. dollars, up 18%), accounting for 17.8% of the total amount of the same period, an increase of 2 percentage points over the previous year. Most of the investments took place in countries along the Belt and Road including Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, the United Arab Emirates, Laos, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Pakistan, Cambodia, Bangladesh and etc. During the first half of this year, the China-Europe Railway Express has hit new records in both the number and the volume of freight services, developing 7323 railway lines, reaching 168 cities across 23 countries including Germany. Duisburg in Germany has become the largest China-Europe Railway Express hub in Europe. China has also improved multilateral, bilateral and regional cooperation mechanisms with Belt and Road countries, reaching a series of important consensus and extending benefits of economic development to more people. Up to August 2021, China has signed more than 200 Belt and Road Cooperation documents with 141 countries and 32 international organizations, covering a wide range of areas such as connectivity, investment, trade, finance, technology, social and humanitarian development, maritime projects, people’s livelihood and etc.

Economic and trade cooperation between China and Germany has been expanded despite the impact of the pandemic last year. The trade volume between the two countries increased by 41.5% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2021, a demonstration of high level and great potential of China-Germany cooperation. At present, there are more than 7000 German enterprises operating business in China and more than 2000 Chinese enterprises in Germany. In April of 2021, Both prime ministers of the two governments attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Sino-German Forum for Economic and Technological Cooperation and pledged to cooperate for fighting the pandemic, provide convenience for human travels, explore mutual recognition of vaccine and international health code, join efforts to sustain business, safeguard stability of production and supply chain, and promote recovery of the world economy. The Chinese government is devoted to develop a sound business environment based on market orientation, rule of law and equal treatments to both domestic and international business entities. We warmly welcome international investments including investments from Germany.

Legal cooperation is a crucial infrastructure of the One Belt & One Road Construction. It is very important to improve improve rules governing investment, transportation, infrastructure and dispute settlement mechanisms. Legal communities of the regions could work

closely in this regard so as to promote the Belt and Road construction by strengthening cooperative foundation, stabilizing people's expectation and winning long-term benefits. By exchanging ideas during this webinar, all of us could pool together our wisdom, accumulate wider consensus, explore new possibilities and render stronger support for the Belt and Road construction.

As an EXCO member of LAWASIA, I would also like to urge all participants in general, and German lawyers in particular, to join LAWASIA as individual members. LAWASIA will charge a moderate amount of registration fee, but once you are a registered LAWASIA member, you could benefit a great deal from attending all annual webinars of LAWASIA throughout the year, participating in exchanges with lawyers from over 30 jurisdictions of the LAWASIA region.

I again wish the webinar a great success! Thank you all.