

## SDC graduation, 24 June 2017

### **Speech by Executive Director of SDC, Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen**

You, our graduates 2017, came two or three years ago. You came to Beijing – maybe a little insecure, but curious and open to learn. Eager to explore the opportunities at SDC.

You probably expected to have countless hours of studies, group work and many exams ahead of you.

In an intercultural environment, you have had to learn how to appreciate diversity as a strength.

Now, you have reached an important milestone. You have found knowledge, filled up your academic toolboxes – and you have developed new friendships – you are members of a great Sino-Danish network.

It is up to yourself to choose the road ahead, whether you will pursue further studies deeper into academia or you are decided on exploring opportunities in the business world or industry.

We have great confidence in you. In fact, on this day you should tell yourself “that only the starts are the limit”.

You are the last group of students to graduate from Zhongguancun Campus. You and the two classes before you paved the road for your followers.

In September the new students will initiate their programmes at Yanqihu Campus in the new SDC building.

You were the pioneers, and you took part in SDC’s journey from idea to reality.

SDC now enters a new phase of an evolving Sino-Danish partnership. An international high level panel has evaluated SDC and found it an unique and highly successful endeavor.

We are approaching 1,000 SDC students since 2012. Last year you and your fellow students benefitted from more than 225 researchers from Denmark, they were here for more than 4,000 days, and of course from countless hours from your Chinese professors and advisors.

It is great to get a place of our own. From now on, we have that. We will consolidate SDC on the foundation you have helped us to build.

From experiment to institution. Not Danish – not Chinese, but Sino-Danish. It is indeed a strong partnership between UCAS/CAS and the eight Danish universities.

The proof of this is that many of you now receive double degrees, accredited in China as well as in Denmark.

Please Prof. Wu, bring our sincere gratitude from all at the Danish side to President Bai, and President Ding and all your colleagues.

Finally, once more I would like to congratulate those we are here to celebrate today – our SDC graduates 2017. Welcome everyone to this celebration of our great partnership.