



第四届 文明交流互鉴对话会

The Fourth Dialogue on Exchanges and
Mutual Learning Among Civilizations



Report on “Dom Polski” Association Delegation’s Visit to China May 27 – June 4, 2025

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
CONFERENCE IN DUNHUANG, 29TH AND 30TH MAY 2025	3
PARALLEL SESSION III	5
ESTABLISHED CONTACTS AND PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION	6
VISITS TO SILK ROAD HERITAGE SITES	8
DUNHUANG CITY (敦煌, DÚNHUÁNG) IN GANSU PROVINCE	8
JIAYUGUAN CITY (嘉峪关, JIĀYÙGUĀN) IN GANSU PROVINCE	10
XI’AN CITY (西安, XĪ’ĀN) IN SHAANXI PROVINCE	11
LIANGJIAHE VILLAGE (梁家河村, LIÁNGJIĀHÉ CÚN) IN SHAANXI PROVINCE	12
CONCLUSIONS	12
LIST OF DELEGATES FROM THE „MULTINATIONAL GROUP”:	14

Introduction

At the end of May and the beginning of June 2025, a delegation from our civil association “Dom Polski” (“Polish House”) carried out an official visit to China lasting over a week. We were invited by the **Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU)** to participate in the conference “**Fourth Dialogue on Exchange and Mutual Learning among Civilizations**”. This year, the delegation was represented by Aneta Haber, a member of the Program Council.

A partnership of over 30 years connects “Dom Polski” with CAFIU. Since 1981, CAFIU has created numerous platforms for dialogue and mutual understanding between China and foreign countries. One of its initiatives is the conference already mentioned, in which more than 350 delegates participated, including 201 from abroad. The civil association “Polish House” was the only one organization representing Polish NGOs (non-governmental organizations).

In addition to the conference, visits were planned to historical sites along the Silk Road in Gansu and Shaanxi provinces. Our delegation was part of “Multinational Group” with other international delegates, accompanied by **Liu Yahang** (CAFIU member) and **Shi Timing** (Chinese-English simultaneous interpreter).



Picture 1: Official Opening of the Conference.

Conference in Dunhuang, 29th and 30th May 2025

This year’s main topic was “Carrying Forward the Silk Road Spirit to Gather Momentum for the Implementation of the Global Civilization Initiative”. In 2023, prof. Józef Haber, the Chairman of the Board of our civil association, attended a presentation of the initiative led by the President Xi Jinping.

The fourth edition of the “Dialogue on Exchange and Mutual Learning among Civilizations” consisted of two segments: the **opening session** and the **parallel**

sessions. The *opening session* included remarks followed by thematic speeches. **Liu Jianchao**, Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC), served as the moderator of the session.

In the first speech, **Vice President of the People's Republic of China Han Zheng**, encouraged states to engage in collaboration based on the win-win principle while emphasizing the significance of dialogue in breaking barriers, preventing conflicts, enhancing mutual understanding, and fostering amicable relations among civilizations. The conference convenor, **Ji Bingxuan**, President of CAFIU and Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress, took the floor following the Vice President. Subsequently, representatives of foreign delegations delivered remarks, including **Dithapelo Keorapetse** (Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Botswana), **Sommad Pholsen** (Vice President of the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and President of the Lao Committee for Peace and Solidarity), and **Bidya Devi Bhandari** (Former President of Nepal). Each of the speakers shared valuable insights on promoting peace and fruitful exchange on a global scale. The significance of the city of Dunhuang was highlighted as a unique pearl of the humankind heritage – a place where the East meets the West on the Silk Road. This was also emphasized in the speech of **Hu Changsheng**, Secretary of the CPC Gansu Provincial Committee and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Gansu Provincial People's Congress.

At the end of the first segment of the *opening session*, a short documentary was shown demonstrating how ceramics in art and artisan craft can serve as a tool for multicultural exchange, using as an example the city of Linxia, often referred to as the international “capital of ceramics”. Moreover, ceramics are increasingly used in modern technologies, especially in astronautics and ocean engineering. This is due to their specific physical, chemical, and mechanical properties.

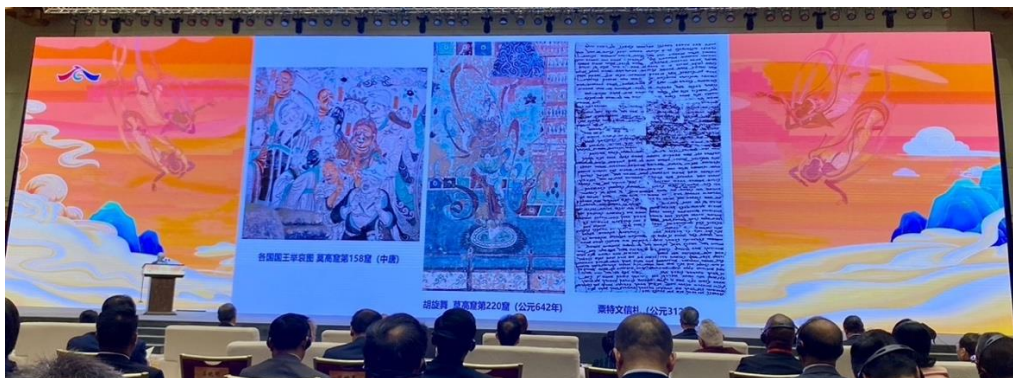


Picture 2: A still from the video "Soaring Dreams - From Mogao Caves to Space Station"

The thematic segment included speeches and short film screenings. The presentations focused on the heritage of humankind. **Hazem Omar**, Head of the Republican People's Party of Egypt and Chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, highlighted

ancient cultures of Egypt and China. The archaeologist **Fan Jinshi** discussed the influence of Western culture on the paintings of Mogao Grottoes. Each film referred to the city of Dunhuang in some way – through its monuments (the Mogao Grottoes), its landscapes (deserts), or its symbols (the Nine-Coloured Deer). What’s interesting is that each short film was made using Artificial Intelligence (AI), which was no coincidence. **Martin Woesler**, a German sinologist, spoke about the significance of AI for the mission of the conference. He stated that numerous Silk Roads are being created – not the traditional ones, but digital Silk Roads emerging as the technology progresses.

The culmination of the opening session was a musical performance by a multilingual youth group, centered on the enigmatic symbol of the “Three Rabbits”, which has appeared over the centuries in many distant places around the world.



Picture 3: Fan Jinshi's presentation.

After a short break, the second segment, the “parallel sessions” began. These sessions covered topics from various disciplines such as:

- I. “Global Dialogue on Civilization Inheritance and the Digital Silk Road”. Organizer: Dunhuang Academy.
- II. “Building a Community of Civilizations: A New Vision for International Cooperation among Museums”. Organizer: China National Archives of Publications and Culture & Eastern Zhejiang Canal Museum.
- III. “Strengthening the Juridical Foundations of the Shared Values of Mankind”. Organizer: China University of Political Science and Law.
- IV. “Youth Power in Dialogue among Civilizations”. Organizer: Schwarzman Scholars of Tsinghua University.
- V. “Equality and Inclusiveness & Harmonious Coexistence: Multi-Dimensional Narratives of Civilizations from Writer’s Perspective”. Organizer: China Writers Association. Co-organizer: China National Publications Import & Export (Group) Co., Ltd.
- VI. “Ecological Actions to Carry Forward the Shared Values of Mankind”. Organizer: Lanzhou University.

- VII. “Seeking Harmony Without Uniformity in Mutual Learning: Diversity of Civilizations from Sinologists’ Perspective”. Organizer: Beijing Language and Culture University.
- VIII. “Reconstruction and Renewal of Civilization in the Era of Artificial Intelligence”. Organizer: Contemporary World Press.

Parallel Session III

Our association’s delegation took part in the third *parallel session*, which focused on the role of international law in strengthening the shared values of humankind. The session was organized by the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL) and brought together distinguished scholars and politicians who shared insights from both their national perspective and their professional legal experience.

The discussion was opened by CUPL Professor Emeritus **Zhang Jinfan**, who described methods of resolving disputes among different nationalities during the Tang dynasty in China, emphasizing the role of international law as essential for effective exchange among civilizations and the cultivation of shared values. Dignity, the protection of the vulnerable, access to education and the safeguarding of life are among the shared values that unite us. This view was reinforced by Former German Minister of Justice, **Herta Däubler-Gmelin**, who offered a comparative study of the ideals conveyed through fairy tales in different cultures. Another notable contribution, by Professor **Joan Loughrey** from Queen’s University in Belfast, concerned the necessity of transparent laws for the citizens and the potential role of AI in optimizing judicial systems. The participants stressed the importance of fully implementing international law and building cooperation based on shared principles and effective institutions, with the aim of creating a global system capable of promoting peace and mutual understanding.

Our presence at the session led to interesting reflections on the current judicial system, which requires modernization to meet the needs of our era. Furthermore, we took part in a discussion with local media, during which our delegation gave an interview to Xinhua News Agency about the significance of preserving Silk Road heritage and its role in cultural exchange. The interview illustrates the growing recognition of the civil association “Dom Polski” by Chinese authorities and media.



Picture 4: A local newspaper article covering Parallel Session III

Established Contacts and Prospects for Cooperation

During the visit, the delegation actively established new relationships and discussed opportunities for cooperation with representatives of various organizations. Below are five potential partnership contacts briefly outlined, which emerged during our stay in China:

- a) **Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU)** – During the conversations, both sides expressed their willingness to continue and further strengthen the friendship. In the discussion, our delegation suggested organizing a Poland-China-Italy conference aimed at supporting interdisciplinary exchange between these countries. Such a conference could be held in Perugia (Italy), as it is an international academic city, home to the University for Foreigners of Perugia, which attracts students from all over the world, particularly from Europe, Asia, and Africa. The city also hosts various associations, including Chinese ones, such as the local branch of the Chinese Students and Scholars Union in Italy.



Picture 5: Aneta Haber and Liu Yahang from CAFIU.

- b) **Viet Nam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO)** – In our discussions with VUFO representatives, we focused on the bonds that connect our countries, rooted in historical ties such as the presence of Vietnamese students at Polish universities during the period of the Polish People’s Republic. Today, many Vietnamese live in Warsaw, and a significant number are students, for whom dedicated associations exist. The VUFO representatives proposed organizing cultural events for students from Poland and Vietnam. A notable aspect of our conversation was the presence of Polish literature in Vietnam. For instance, school pupils study the poem „*My Dear Poland, It’s Time for the Snow to Melt*” by a Vietnamese poet Tố Hữu (real name Nguyễn Kim Thành). Additionally, the novel “*In Desert and Wilderness*” by Henryk Sienkiewicz is particularly popular in Vietnam.



Picture 6: Aneta Haber and Duong Thi Nga, Director General for VUFO's Multilateral Affairs Department.

- c) **Social Education Association Bellpo-Kai in Fukuoka** (an NGO from Japan) – During the conference, our delegation met Yukari Tsuru, Board Chairman of this organization. Bellpo-Kai works on social education and promotes diverse youth exchanges between Japan and other countries. Mrs. Tsuru proposed putting together an online meeting aimed at providing a lesson about our cultures for

school pupils and students from Poland and Japan, as well as a discussion about potential collaborative projects.



Picture 7: Left to right: Yukari Tsuru, Aneta Haber, member of Bellpo-Kai.

- d) **Hungarian–Chinese Friendship Association** – our delegation established a contact with Diana Farkas, a young sinologist and member of the association, who studies Polish language. Although no specific projects have been decided, there is a mutual willingness to collaborate on upcoming cultural or academic events.
- e) **Bulgarian National Association for the Belt and Road** – During our visit we met the President, Zahari Zahariev, and the Executive Secretary, Nikolay Tomov. Both expressed interest in staying in touch and mentioned that their association is preparing an international conference on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The conference will be held at the end of the current year in Sofia (the capital of Bulgaria), and its main topic will address the changes in the world order following the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences.

Expanding the network of contacts is a key element for the development of the civil association “Dom Polski”. Each established relationship increases the potential for new partnerships in both cultural and academic fields. Notably, the prospect of organizing joint meetings together and the youth exchanges emerged as a result of these discussions.

Visits to Silk Road heritage sites

During the stay in China, we not only discussed the Silk Road heritage, but also had the opportunity to see it in person. We visited cities in the Gansu and Shaanxi provinces. In addition to monuments and museums, we explored key national infrastructure facilities and solutions implemented according to the principles of the sustainability. The final stop was a guided tour in Liangjiahe village, a place of particular significance to the current President of the People’s Republic of China.

Dunhuang City (敦煌, Dūnhuáng) in Gansu Province

Over the centuries, Dunhuang has served as a bridge between East and West, acting as a gateway to China along the Silk Road. Our guides described it as an encounter point of diverse cultures, forming a rich and multicolored mosaic. A prime example of this cultural heritage is the **Mogao Caves¹ in Dunhuang** (莫高窟, Mògāo Kū), also known as the “Thousand Buddhas Grottoes”, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Carved into the rock, 492 grottoes – completed between the 4th and 14th centuries – contain 45,000 square meters of paintings and 2,000 statues in a variety of styles characteristic of different historical periods and dynasties, such as the Sui and Tang. Buddhist art dominates the grottoes, and its evolution can be traced when entering these rupestrian chambers. Alongside religious motifs, there is a notable influence from other cultures, as highlighted by Fan Jinshi during her speech, in which she pointed to examples such as depictions of Ionic columns from Ancient Greece and portrayals of various European monarchs. Our delegation also had the opportunity to view digital presentations of grottoes inaccessible to visitors in a dome cinema, in addition to those we explored in person.

After enduring the hardships of a long journey across endless deserts and mountains, merchants arriving in Dunhuang sought a place to rest. At the foot of the **Singing Sand Dunes** (鸣沙山, Míngshā Shān; Mingsha Mountain), in the shadow of golden dunes, lay the **Crescent Lake Oasis** (月牙泉, Yuèyá Quán) – a living ring of greenery and water amidst the barren expanse of the Gobi Desert. The name “Singing Sand Dunes” comes from the phenomenon of melodic, jingling sounds caused by geological and environmental factors, such as the shape of sand grains, sufficiently strong winds, and the unique topography of the dunes. The oasis has been known for over 2000 years, and its name derives from the crescent shape of its water source. Today, it is a popular tourist attraction which we had the opportunity to explore during our stay. We climbed Mingsha Mountain, sledged down from its top, while traditionally dressed young women accentuated even more the oriental character of this landscape.

Thanks to new technologies, it is now possible to immerse ourselves in the past. During the visit, this year’s conference delegates attended a **theatrical show titled “Ancient Sound of Dunhuang”** – a unique spectacle blending art with the history of this place. The impressive scenography, enhanced by cutting-edge technologies such as holographic projections and 3D effects, combined with the outstanding performances of

¹ Note on terminology: Mogao Caves / Mogao Grottoes

In English, the site is commonly referred to as the “Mogao Caves” or the “Thousand Buddhas Grottoes”. While the term *cave* in English can describe both natural and man-made openings in rock, the word “grotto” is commonly used to denote this in other languages, such as Polish, Italian, Spanish, German, French. Both terms are correct, though grottoes emphasizes the artistic and architectural character of the site rather than its natural formation.

the actors, made the audience feel almost as if they had stepped into ancient Dunhuang.



Picture 8: View of Crescent Lake Oasis.

Jiayuguan City (嘉峪关, Jiāyùguān) in Gansu Province

We reached Jiayuguan – the region’s pride and joy – by bullet train. It’s a modern city built in the desert, combining industrial development with tourism. During our guided visit to the Jiayuguan City Museum, we learned about its history and rapid growth over the past decades. One of its most iconic landmarks is **Jiayuguan Pass**, a Ming dynasty fortress. Situated in the vast Gobi Desert, which spans approximately 1,300,000 square kilometres, the fortress marks the westernmost point of the Great Wall. In the evening, our delegation attended an open-air multimedia show, where the site’s history was brought to life through animated projections displayed directly onto its restored walls. Once a crucial gateway along the Silk Road, Jiayuguan today serves as an impressive example of modern cultural tourism.



Picture 9: Entrance to the Jiayuguan Fortress.

Agriculture is another sector where innovation is being implemented. The **Modern Agriculture Research and Education Base** – in Wenshu Town, Jiayuguan – is an excellent example. The facility conducts research on fruit and vegetable cultivation in line with the principles of sustainable development. Our delegate gave an interview to a

local newspaper, emphasizing the key role of agricultural modernization at the local level.

Besides food, the city also requires access to electricity. The visit included the **Smart Grid and Localized New Energy Consumption Demonstration Project Base**, established by the Jiangxi Iron & Steel Co., a steel producer. This project integrates renewable energy sources, primarily photovoltaic, aimed at meeting industrial needs while reducing CO2 emissions. A portion of the energy produced is supplied to the city's residents.

Xian City (西安, Xī'ān) in Shaanxi Province

1300 kilometres separate Jiayuguan and Xi'an – a distance we covered in less than two hours by plane, flying over deserts and mountain ranges. Xi'an served as the capital of several dynasties, a status it maintained for approximately 1,100 years. Founded over 3,100 years ago, the city marked both the beginning and the end of the Silk Road. It is home to the Terracotta Army, with about 8,000 statues of warriors and horses erected to guard the First Emperor of China and ensure his power in the afterlife.

We visited the Grand Tang Dynasty Ever-bright City, a 2,100-metre-long pedestrian avenue at the foot of the Giant Wild Goose Pagoda. The street is inspired by China during the Tang dynasty. As we explored it, our way was illuminated by white-outlined trees adorned with lanterns, showed us way, while nearby food and souvenir stalls tempted visitors. At the edges of the avenue, a complex of traditional Chinese-style buildings houses a variety of restaurants, shops, and other amenities. Nonetheless, the true charm of this place lies in its street performances – dramatic, musical, and dance acts, many in traditional style – which bring the area to life and give it a unique character. In 2020 and 2021, this site was recognized as one of the first *Demonstration Pedestrian Streets*.



Picture 10: Great Tang-ever Bright City.

Liangjiahe Village (梁家河村, Liángjiāhé Cūn) in Shaanxi Province

Riding through rural landscapes with rice fields, we reached the final destination on the agenda: Liangjiahe Village. This village holds particular significance for the current President Xi Jinping, as he spent some part of his young adulthood there. In the 1970s, President Xi lived here with other scholars from Beijing, performing manual labor, and leading a modest life alongside the local residents. Our delegation had the opportunity to enter the living space where they slept – sometimes six sharing a single bed – and view the book collection President Xi read during his spare time between work. In the village, we also attended an open-air lecture on his life and time spent in the village, and how this experience shaped his outlook on the world and the challenges of life.

The countries of Central and Eastern Asia have contributed notably to the world's cultural heritage, a fact further confirmed by the cities we visited. Dunhuang and Xi'an underline the historical role of the People's Republic of China in promoting exchange between East and West. At the same time, places such as Jiayuguan demonstrate how modern exchanges among civilizations can be based on spreading the cultural heritage with the implementation of new technologies and sustainable development principles.

Conclusions

The “Polish House” delegation's journey to China was an enriching experience, both substantively and organizationally. The level of engagement, helpfulness, and openness demonstrated by all those involved in ensuring the success of the visit was impressive. The international conference organized by CAFIU brought together global experts, allowing us to participate actively in discussions on values and international law. It also opened new avenues for collaboration with foreign partners from various organizations. The combination of a formal conference and firsthand experience of the heritage of exchanges among civilizations proved an effective way to engage delegates and foster dialogue, creating new relations that have the potential to become long-term partnerships. The visited sites – from the mystical grottoes of Dunhuang to the cities of Yan'an and Xi'an, where tradition meets modernity – confirmed once more the importance of cherishing the Silk Road heritage. The civil association “Dom Polski” will continue planning further actions to reinforce existing contacts, as well as develop the new ones established during this visit.

Report prepared by: Aneta Haber, Delegate of the Civil Association “Dom Polski”

List of Delegates from the “Multinational Group”:

1. Khelil Abdel-Kader, Editor-in-Chief of the Chinese Silk Road News Network.
2. Ashley Lashley, Director of the Ashley Lashley Foundation.
3. Zahari Zahariev, President of Bulgarian National Association for the Belt and Road.
4. Nikolay Tomov, Secretary of Bulgarian National Association for the Belt and Road.
5. David Okitashvili, President of Georgian Chamber of Culture.
6. Javid Gasumov, Deputy President of the Georgian Chamber of Culture for International Affairs.
7. Alexander Saganelidze, International Relations Manager of the Georgian Chamber of Culture.
8. Eliso Elisashvili, Rector of the Georgian International University.
9. Diana Farkas, Representative of Hungarian-Chinese Friendship Association.
10. Sofia Apaeva, Dean of the Kyrgyz-Chinese College at Kyrgyz National University.
11. Sarbottam Shrestha, the 1st Vice President of Arniko Society Nepal.
12. Aneta Haber, Representative of Dom Polski.
13. Siriya Witchawut, Assistant to Vice President of the Thai-Chinese Cultural and Economic Association.
14. Priya Alexander, Research Officer of Caribbean Policy Research Institute.
15. Ezzeddine Jebali, President of Tunisia-China Friendship Association.
16. Nguyen Ngoc Hung, Vice President of VUFO.
17. Duong Thi Nga, Director General for Multilateral Affairs Department of VUFO.



Picture 11: From left to right: Ezzeddine Jebali, Khelil Abdel-Kader, Sarbottam Shrestha, Aneta Haber, Liu Yahang, Diana Farkas, Duong Thi Nga, Shi Timing, Eliso Elisashvili.