

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Raja Nushirwan Zainal Abidin, Ambassador of Malaysia to the People's Republic of China at the Opening Ceremony of the Shanghai Silk Road Health Forum, Shanghai, 7 November 2020

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by first thanking the Silk Road Cities Alliance and the other organisers of this important conference for the invitation extended to me to address this very distinguished audience.

This conference is extremely timely, given the prominence given by the international community to health issues in order to address the challenges posed by covid-19, as well as to build a post-covid-19 world. I would thus like to commend the organisers for their initiative in organizing this conference and for its theme too.

Given the time constraints, I would like to focus on two points only.

The first relates to establishing a system of governance for better health along the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). We are all aware that the BRI aims at improving the quality of human physical interaction and movement. To me, it is therefore not only about the construction of roads, highways and railway lines, often called “hard infrastructure” alone. It is equally about “soft infrastructure” including regulations, standards, practices as well the culture of interaction. Soft infrastructure will profoundly change in light of covid-19, with greater emphasis on public health.

As it is, many countries including my own, Malaysia are in the process of establishing Green Lanes or Travel Lanes for the movement of goods and people. Typically, these are done on a bilateral basis. To my knowledge, none are done on a plurilateral, regional or multilateral basis. As more of these lanes are rolled out, there is an increasing danger that one may be in contradiction with one another.

Bearing this in mind, I believe that the time will soon come to have an international understanding on common standards and health protocols. Otherwise, the cost of movement and transportation would be prohibitive.

The second issue that I would like address relates to the first it is about the importance of international cooperation. It is obvious that international cooperation is a requirement in order to develop common standards, protocols and practices. As we all know, it is unfortunate that the desire to cooperate internationally is waning at a time when we need it the most.

There are political reasons for this, of course. While this is certainly a cause of concern, my greater worry is if diminishing desire for international cooperation is correlated to a diminishing respect for science. For it is only science that can provide the tangible means of addressing the challenges posed by covid-19. In this regard, I am heartened by the commitment by countries like Malaysia, China and many others to work closely together on the basis of science and the goodwill of humanity to build a “healthy community of human destiny”.

马来西亚驻华大使 Raja Nushirwan Zainal Abidin 阁下
于 2020 年 11 月 7 日在“丝路方舟健康论坛”开幕式上的致辞

尊贵的女士们先生们，

首先，请允许我感谢丝绸之路城市联盟和本次重要论坛的其他组织者向我发出的邀请。

为了更好地应对 covid-19 所带来的挑战以及建立疫情后的世界，国际社会对卫生问题十分重视，因此本次论坛的举办非常及时。我要赞扬主办方在组织这次论坛方面的主动性及其主题。

鉴于时间限制，我只想谈两点。

第一个关于顺应“一带一路”倡议（BRI）建立更好的健康管理体系。我们都知道，“一带一路”倡议旨在提高人类社会物质的互动及其质量。对我而言，这不仅涉及高速公路和铁路的建设——通常仅被称为“硬基础设施”，这同样涉及“软基础设施”，包括法规、标准、实践以及交互文化。疫情爆发后，软基础设施将发生深刻变化，并将更加强调公共卫生。

实际上，包括我国（马来西亚）在内的许多国家都在建立绿色通道或旅行通道，以运送货物和人员。通常，这些是在双边基础上进行的。据我所知，没有一个是区域或多边基础上进行的。随着越来越多的车道建设，人们之间可能会产生矛盾的危险也越来越大。

牢记这一点，我相信不久的将来，会有一个国际共识以了解共同的标准和卫生协议。否则，交通和运输的费用将是高昂的。

我要谈及的第二个问题是国际合作的重要性。显然，国际合作是制定共同标准、协议和惯例的必要条件。然而不幸的是，在我们最需要的时候，国际间的合作却正在减弱。

当然，有政治原因。尽管这当然是令人担忧的原因，但我更加担心的是，对国际合作的渴望减少是否与对科学的尊重减少有关，因为只有科学才能为应对 covid-19 提供切实有效的手段。在这方面，我感到鼓舞的是，马来西亚、中国等许多国家承诺在科学和仁爱的基础上密切合作，以建立一个“人类命运健康共同体”。