

Serial Activities of Beijing Forum 2010 (I): Dialogue between Homi Bhabha and Tu Wei-Ming

Co-sponsored by Beijing Forum and the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Peking University (IAHS), a dialogue between two of the world's greatest minds Homi Bhabha and Tu Weiming was successfully held and well received on May 20 in the Sunny Hall of Yingjie Exchange Center on PKU Campus. This dialogue was themed "Displaying Modernity". It aims to discuss some of the fundamental issues of modernity, and exchange ideas on the Indian and Chinese responses to globalization and modernization.



Homi Bhabha, now the Director of the Humanities Center at Harvard University, is one of the most important figures in contemporary post-colonial studies, world renowned for his outstanding contributions to the research on colonial and post-colonial theory, cultural transition, and cosmopolitanism. Tu Weiming, Harvard Professor and the IAHS Director, has long been committed to the

studies of Confucian classics. He seeks to review, reinterpret and thus rejuvenate Chinese traditional culture from a pluralist perspective. His reputation is well renowned in the international academic community.

During the dialogue, Professor Homi Bhabha analyzed the important role of discrete community groups and ethnic minority groups in contributing to cultural diversity, and the virtue of tolerance in inter-cultural understanding. In response to this, Professor Tu Weiming described the harmonious co-existence among different ethnicities in China's long history, and drew the conclusion that communication of core values between different cultural traditions is necessary. They also held in-depth discussions on the common predicament that the tide of globalization and modernity has put upon the cultural traditions of China and India, as well as the prospects of cultural exchanges between the two countries.

There was a Q&A session between the presenters and audience, which followed the dialogue.

Since last year, Beijing Forum has been trying to avail itself of the rich academic network resources of Peking University and to engage the visiting scholars in lectures and seminars. These Beijing Forum sponsored/ co-sponsored lectures and seminars, serving

as part of the Forum's serial activities apart from its annual conference in November, have positively expand the Forum's academic network and influence.

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