

## **Announcement on the Study of “Belt & Road and Elderly Education”**

Dear friends at AIUTA,

As advised by President Vellas, AIUTA Education and Research Committee held an executive meeting in Shanghai, China on Apr 10, 2018. It was decided at this event that an international conference dedicated to the discussion of “the Belt and Road (B&R) and elderly education” would be held in Wuhan, China on May 21-22, 2019.

Drawing upon the historic symbolism of the ancient silk road, B&R incorporates a sense of times into its property. It is meant to uphold an open global economic system, and by joining hands with people from every country, open up a bright future for mankind which is more prosperous, safer and happier.

CAUA International Liaison Department would make the following suggestions. Studies of B&R and elderly education should focus on the principles of “consultation, contribution and shared benefits”, as proposed by B&R Initiative; in-depth studies shall be made on the aspects of policy coordination, cultural integration and people-to-people bonds.

I. Policy coordination serves as an important guarantee for B&R construction as well as a significant element of exchanges among AIUTA

members in different countries. Presently various U3A models exist hand-in-hand around the world, honoring and learning from each other. It is vital for every country to communicate in terms of U3A development policy.

II. Cultural integration constitutes the soul of B&R. The Initiative proposes that national cultures, religions and civilizations of different kinds should coexist, respect one another while seeking common development. U3A growth in the international community is exactly the result of multicultural incorporation and development. Drawing on the important channel of AIUTA, we are able to push forward U3As of all countries to integrate culturally. In areas like innovation in course arrangement, cooperation in theoretical research, growth in campus culture and international study tours, numerous collaborative programs can be implemented. U3As around the globe, to sum up, may offer a platform for experiment of multicultural integration.

III. People-to-people bonds form the basis for B&R construction. Sharing a desire for people-to-people exchanges, U3A students look forward to a community of common destiny characterized by friendliness, trust and affection. Teaching and cultural activities may serve as a channel for elderly students to learn about other countries and nations so as to show respect and build friendship.

IV. B&R advocates consultation, contribution and shared benefits. In

keeping with this philosophy, an international lifelong education system within the AIUTA framework will correspond to the spirit of B&R. Against the backdrop of an aging planet, B&R's progress calls for the attention of global elderly population; it is also necessary that people involve themselves in negotiation, building together an international elderly education network, whose fruits in coping with global aging are to be shared collectively. CAUA thinks highly of the inclusion of B&R into AIUTA research portfolio. We sincerely welcome friends of AIUTA in all countries to observe and participate in B&R's policy coordination, cultural integration and people-to-people bonds. In-depth theoretical issues linking B&R and elderly education are many, waiting for our careful thinking and study.

We welcome U3A friends throughout the world to delve into the relationship between B&R values and the promotion of elderly education.

We expect your participation in the "B&R and elderly education" conference in the Chinese Province of Hubei. The beautiful city of Wuhan awaits you with open arms.

Thank you.