

COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE PARTICIPATION IN THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SUNTZU'S ART OF WAR (AUGUST, 2014)

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On 25-26 August 2014 in Qingdao (People's Republic of China) the 9th International Symposium on Sun Tzu's Art of War took place. The symposium was dedicated to contemporary dimension and the importance of the achievements of Sun Tzu - one of the greatest thinkers of the Far East, the author of the world's oldest martial arts manual. The aim of the symposium assumed by the organisers was "*exploring the insightful wisdom and contemporary values of Sun Tzu's Art of War, upholding China's excellent tradition of military culture, enhancing ideological and cultural exchanges between China and the rest of the world, and promoting world peace, cooperation and development*"¹. Thus, the topic of the symposium was "*Sun Tzu's Art of War and Peace, Cooperation and Development*".

This year's symposium was sponsored by the Academy of Military Sciences (AMS) of the People's Liberation Army and the China Research Society of Sun Tzu's Art of War (CRSSTAW) and co-sponsored by the Shandong Provincial People's Government.

The meetings were attended by more than 160 experts and scholars from 26 countries and regions around the world, including Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the

1 Handbook of the 9th International Symposium on Sun Tzu's Art of War.

Russian Federation, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden, Tajikistan, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Uzbekistan.

Poland was represented by former Maj. Gen. (ret.) Prof. Bogusław Pacek, Ph.D., adviser to the Polish MoD. He was invited by the Chairman of the China Research Society of Sun Tzu's Art of War, Political Commissar of the Academy of Military Sciences of the People's Liberation Army of the Republic of China, Lt. Gen. Sijing Sun, who delivered the keynote speech during the opening ceremony.

During the two days, the symposium attendees discussed a series of topics. They focused on how to apply the principles of Sun Tzu's Art of War to safeguard world peace, cooperation and development. The sessions' topics and discussions focused on: (1) consideration and preventing war, (2) the building of military mutual trust, (3) competition and cooperation, (4) modern development, (5) western military culture.

The experts noted that traditional Chinese strategies represented by Sun Tzu's Art of War are penetrated with the strategic thinking and cultural value that the purpose of preparing for war is to prevent war and the purpose of strengthening the country and army is to safeguard peace. The world today is experiencing unprecedented changes. Traditional Chinese strategies represented by Sun Tzu's Art of War show us that seeking safety through development, cooperation and win-win growth is the right way towards world peace. We should all learn from the concept and wisdom of Sun Tzu's Art of War, inherit Sun Tzu's idea of cooperation and co-existence, and turn the diversity and differences among countries in the world into the dynamism and power to promote peace, cooperation and development, so as to actively prevent conflict and war and jointly safeguard world peace.

As part of session 2 of the first day of the symposium, the Polish representative gave a lecture on *Universal understanding and implementation of Sun Tzu's principles: the Republic of Poland and Polish Armed Forces perspective*. At the beginning he described the realm of education and training at the NDU Warsaw, also focusing on the heritage of Sun Tzu within curricula and academic activities and, further, the changing nature of the security environment and the emergence of new security challenges. The speaker underlined the importance of the key factors and actors related to this, adding that new phenomena, issues and events

that appear will have a significant impact on sustaining and creating international stability in the future. The author also explained the rules and principles related to the role to be played by the Polish Armed Forces, with the Sun Tzu's principles of the strategy and operational art in mind. Finally, the lessons learned and key tasks drawn from the analysis of the operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Chad were presented.

He stressed that educated and skilled soldiers constitute the core of the military. Well-trained personnel are an important instrument, first of all, for peace. Also, there should always be enough time and space to discuss the strategic principles elaborated and described by the strategic thinkers. And Sun Tzu is the "must read" and master philosopher and strategist for all people dealing not only with modern warfare issues, but also influencing many competitive endeavours all over the world in business, politics, sports and culture.