

**SPEECH AT A MEETING COMMEMORATING
THE CENTENARY OF THE REVOLUTION OF 1911**

October 9, 2011

Lin Jun

**Chairman of the All-China Federation of
Returned Overseas Chinese**

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Comrades and Friends,

Today, we are meeting here on this solemn occasion to commemorate the centenary of the Revolution of 1911. On behalf of the country's people's organizations, I wish to cherish the memory of and pay great tribute to Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the great pioneer of China's democratic revolution who led the Revolution of 1911, and I also wish to cherish the memory of and pay great tribute to all the revolutionary martyrs who sacrificed their lives in overthrowing the monarchic system and founding a republic in China.

The Revolution of 1911 put an end to the absolute monarchy that had ruled China for more than 2,000 years, spread far and wide the thinking of democratic revolution, greatly raised the Chinese people's political awareness, effectively emancipated their minds, and opened the floodgate for China's progress. China has changed profoundly over the past century. Today, we are looking back at the glorious history of the Revolution of 1911 and the growth of the Chinese nation in the past 100 years, and this will be of great practical significance for promoting the great unity of the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation at home and abroad, unwaveringly taking the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and jointly carrying out the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

In reviewing the history of the 100 years since the Revolution of 1911, we have become more keenly aware that the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the path we must take to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. After the Revolution of 1911, there was no fundamental change in the semi-colonial, semi-feudal nature of Chinese society, the Chinese people remained in misery, and the bourgeois political parties and other political groups in China were unable to complete the historic mission of overthrowing imperialism and feudalism. It was the establishment of the Communist Party of China (CPC) that set the Chinese revolution on the right course. Over the past 90 years, Chinese Communists have united with and led the people of all ethnic groups in carrying out sustained and indomitable struggles. We have brought about fundamental changes in a poor and weak China; accomplished the historic mission that the Revolution of 1911 left unfinished; and achieved great victories in China's revolution, construction and reform. History convincingly proves that without the CPC,

there would have been no New China, that only socialism can save China, and that only reform and opening up can develop China. As we solemnly commemorate the centenary of the Revolution of 1911 today, we should follow the leadership of the CPC, hold high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics, conscientiously study and apply the theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, unwaveringly take the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, uphold and improve the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and strive to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

In reviewing the history of the 100 years since the Revolution of 1911, we have become more keenly aware that bringing about China's complete reunification serves the fundamental interests of the Chinese nation, and is its sacred mission. Dr. Sun Yat-sen dedicated his whole life to maintaining China's unity. Achieving China's complete reunification is a key element of the heritage of the Revolution of 1911 as well as the common aspiration of compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. Today, as we solemnly commemorate the centenary of the Revolution of 1911, we should pursue the goal of the peaceful development of cross-Straits relations, uphold the one-China principle, resolutely oppose separatist activities aimed at Taiwan independence, promote cross-Straits talks, strengthen exchanges and cooperation, seek and expand common ground while setting aside and narrowing differences, strive for greater harmony and cooperation between the people on both sides, jointly uphold the peaceful development of cross-Straits relations, improve and strengthen these relations, and thus make new historic contributions to achieving China's early and peaceful reunification.

In reviewing the history of the 100 years since the Revolution of 1911, we have become more keenly aware that all people's organizations have the important responsibility of encouraging the people to rally more closely around the CPC. During the Revolution of 1911, Dr. Sun Yat-sen said, "We must arouse the people and work together in a common cause with those peoples of the world who treat us as equals." The CPC is dedicated to serving the people wholeheartedly, and it has always maintained close ties with them. All people's organizations led by the Party shoulder the important task of organizing, mobilizing, guiding and serving the people, and they serve as a

bridge that links both the Party and government with the people. As we solemnly commemorate the centenary of the Revolution of 1911 today, people's organizations must perform all their functions, and deal with issues related to the people thoroughly and meticulously. They should realize, safeguard and develop the legitimate rights and interests of the people with whom they interact, foster social vitality and harmony to the greatest possible extent, and minimize disharmony as much as possible. They must rally the people closely around the Party, and enhance and continue to foster an environment in which all our people bring out their best, are duly compensated, and live in harmony.

In reviewing the history of the 100 years since the Revolution of 1911, we have become more keenly aware that patriotism is a powerful psychological force promoting the great unity of all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation at home and abroad. During the Revolution of 1911, overseas Chinese participated in forming revolutionary organizations, actively spread revolutionary thinking, donated generously to revolutionary causes, and valiantly joined revolutionary uprisings, thereby making indelible contributions to the revolution. Dr. Sun Yat-sen praised them on many occasions, saying, "Overseas Chinese are the mother of our revolution." Over the past century, overseas Chinese have personally experienced pride when the motherland prospered and humiliation when it weakened. They keenly feel that they share a common destiny with China, and they have always stood by its side and shared its fate. Whenever the country was in difficulty and the nation was in danger, overseas Chinese felt duty bound to make personal sacrifices, give generous donations and helped in any way they could, thereby making a significant contribution to revitalizing the nation and making it strong and prosperous. Today, as we solemnly commemorate the centenary of the Revolution of 1911, we should hold high the great banner of patriotism, vigorously promote the great unity of Chinese compatriots at home and abroad, further strengthen ties with the overseas Chinese, and care more about their life and development. We should effectively protect the legitimate rights and interests of overseas Chinese and the lawful rights and interests of returned overseas Chinese and their families. We should guide overseas Chinese to increase Chinese people's friendship

with peoples from the rest of the world, and encourage all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation at home and abroad to carry forward the fine traditions of the Chinese nation and work together to revitalize China.

Comrades and Friends,

China has now begun implementing the Twelfth Five-Year Plan, and the grand blueprint for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects is becoming a reality. Let us rally closely around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Hu Jintao as General Secretary; hold high the great banner of building socialism with Chinese characteristics; further promote the great unity of all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation at home and abroad; and make greater contributions to promoting China's peaceful reunification, achieving great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and promoting the building of a harmonious world of durable peace and common prosperity!