



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Friendship Association Denmark-China is pleased to support Mr. Christian Havrehed (Chinese name: 黄思远) in organising the adventure "The New Xu Fu Voyage East" (新徐福东渡), which is planned to start from Ningbo on 27th May 2023.

Christian Havrehed is a Danish adventurer with deep ties to China. His fourth great grandfather, Mr. Pierre Paul Ferdinand Mourier, is recognised as Denmark's first sinologist, and Christian is also a sinologist. Christian spent 20 years in China, including studying at RenMin University and working in business as a managing director.

In 2001 he founded "The Yantu Project" (沿途方案) to promote China-Western understanding through cross-cultural maritime adventures. The first Yantu Project involved rowing 5,000 km across the Atlantic Ocean together with Sun Haibin, a teacher from Beijing Sports University. The pair took 56 days to complete this unsupported row and became respectively the first Chinese and the first Dane in history to row across an ocean. The row raised USD 91,000 for charity, which was used to send Chinese students overseas to study at the United World College of the Atlantic in Wales, Christian's alma mater, where he first started studying ancient Chinese history and philosophy.

Christian continues to promote Chinese-Western understanding through cross-cultural nautical adventures and has set himself the goal to investigate whether the Chinese, like the Vikings, visited America before Columbus. Some renowned academics, including the late Cambridge professor Joseph Needham (李约瑟) believed so. Christian bases this project on two stories from official Chinese history, Xu Fu's travel east as recorded by Sima Qian and Hui Shen's journey from Fusang, as documented in the Liangshu.

The upcoming project "The New Xu Fu Voyage East" (新徐福东渡) is the first voyage in a much larger multi-year adventure project, where Christian, Sun Haibin, together with their Korean and Japanese rowing partners, will bring the history and legend of Xu Fu alive and introduce him to the Western world, as well as to the peoples of China, Korea, and Japan.

The adventure will be fuelled by cross-cultural cooperation and will also bring new knowledge to the study of Xu Fu, as the vessel they have chosen for the voyage, an ocean rowing boat, has much the same performance characteristics as an ancient vessel that Xu Fu may have set sail in. The row will go from Ningbo to Jeju Island in Korea, and then south round Kyushu to Shingu on the Pacific coast of Japan. The total voyage is about 2,000 km and is expected to take about 60 days to complete. Along the way the adventurers will stop at eight temples dedicated to Xu Fu to make cultural activities with the local communities.

The Friendship Association Denmark-China sees great potential in this unique adventure for story telling Chinese history and showcasing Chinese-Danish cross-cultural cooperation and friendship not only in Denmark and China, but also Korea, Japan, and beyond.

This is why the Friendship Association Denmark-China is proud to support Christian in bringing this project to its realization, and it cordially invites other relevant parties to also offer Christian and Sun Haibin the strongest support possible. The Friendship Association Denmark-China was established in 1952 and is one of the oldest in the world.

Yours in friendship,


Julie Brink
Chairman