

WB 121105

Message by Dr. H. Köhler

SP 9666 WEIB



WEIB

World Ethics Institute Beijing

Sister of Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies



**Message by Dr. Horst Köhler, former President of the
Federal Republic of Germany, at the inauguration of the
World Ethics Institute at Peking University**

29 October 2012

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First I would like to join all of you who congratulate Karl Schlecht on his 80th birthday. Dear Mr Schlecht: I wish you all the best, above all happiness, good health and God's blessing. Ad multos annos.

I am delighted to know that a World Ethics Institute is being established at this prestigious university. Let me address my heartfelt congratulations to all those who have made this project happen: Professor Zhou Qifeng, President of Peking University; Professor Tu Weiming, Director of the new World Ethics Institute; Professor Bernd Engler, President of Tübingen University; the generous sponsors Karl Schlecht and Liang Wengen, and, last but not least, Professor Hans Kung, President of the Global Ethic Foundation and inspiring pioneer of the Global Ethic project.

The commitment of all of you has laid the ground on which the longstanding contacts between the Global Ethic Foundation and Peking University are currently producing their fruits: the Global Ethic project has now a solid place for research and teaching here in Beijing. In this era of growing globalization, when China is becoming more and more interrelated with the other regions, nations and cultures of the world, it is of utmost importance that we come to agree on an ethical basis for a harmonious living

together, for peace and cooperation. Therefore I appreciate very much that the future business leaders who are being trained at Peking University will get access to the basic knowledge about what unites us beyond the borders of our different cultures and how we can respond to our common responsibilities for our planet.

Such are the issues that the new World Ethics Institute will have to address. My hope is that it will do so in good cooperation with the Global Ethic Institute at Tubingen University. I am looking forward to this cooperation and I am sure that we shall make a precious contribution for our universities and our societies.

I wish the new World Ethics Institute much success and great achievements.