



華東師範大學
EAST CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY

March 15, 2015
Shanghai, China

To Members of the Nordic Council Concerning NSU

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to you to express my strong support for the Nordic Summer University and my sincere hope that best efforts be made to keep alive an important academic tradition associated with this institution.

I speak from my own experience as one of the two keynote speakers of the NSU in July 2008. During my one-week stay in Vejle, Denmark, I was deeply impressed not only by the international and interdisciplinary features of the NSU, but also by the way it attracts outstanding young people to the fields of humanities, and the way it cultivate a kind of “academic culture”, so to speak, that is extremely precious in our contemporary world, where academic work is more and more narrow-mindedly understood as a matter of producing papers by “specialists” and focused on problems that interest only a small number of fellow researchers.

Being an administrator of higher education institution myself, I do not think that all the academic activities should be organized as democratically as what I saw in the NSU, but it would be a great pity that none of them are organized that way in our times. In my view, people in Nordic countries have very good reasons to be proud of themselves for having an academic institution that tells the young people in a unique way what academic work could mean to their real life and how academic activities could be run by those who are interested in them not because of their utilitarian functions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tong Shijun'.

TONG Shijun
Professor of Philosophy
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Foreign Members of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters

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