**Opening Remarks by Chinese Ambassador**

**at the Chinese New Year Celebration at Tallinn University**

(19/02/2015)

Professor Tiit Land,

Members of the faculty and staff,

Students of the Tallinn University,

Good afternoon!

Today is the New Year’s Day in Chinese Lunar Calendar. It is my great pleasure to celebrate the Chinese New Year with you. First of all, let me thank Professor Land for inviting me to visit the University. I also would like to pay tribute to those who make this celebration possible.

Since its establishment, the Confucius Institute in Tallinn has been an important platform for exchanges between Chinese and Estonian cultures. By taking sessions from the Institute, many Estonians are able to know about China and her culture. Not only a great place to learn Chinese language, history, philosophy, painting, music and arts, the Confucius Institute also serves as a place for developing personal skills and broadening one’s horizon. As China has been undergoing dynamic transformation and China-Estonia relation entered a new stage, more opportunities will certainly awaits you as long as you are well-prepared.

The Confucius Institute is also an excellent platform for Chinese and Estonian universities to expand their cooperation. Let me give you some numbers. By the end of 2014, there are 475 Confucius Institutes in 120 countries or regions, with a total of more than 1 million students. Being a member of this global network, Tallinn University will have the opportunity to develop cooperation with a range of Chinese universities and publicize itself in China. I hope Tallinn University and its partner Shanghai University of Finance and Economics build a strong working relationship and make more achievements in the years ahead.

I also believe the Confucius Institute is a bridge between the peoples of Estonia and China. I hope there will be more students taking sessions from the Institute, and serving as ambassadors for friendship between our two countries and peoples.

Last but not the least, wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year!

最后，祝各位新春快乐，羊年大吉！

Thank you！谢谢！