

A Greeting from Malaysia

The following greeting was presented by video at the conclusion of the conference.

I am Chandra Muzaffar from Malaysia, President of the International Movement for a Just World.

I'd like to begin by congratulating the Schiller Institute on its 30th anniversary conference. I'm glad that the Institute is looking at a very important issue, the question of the BRICS, the Silk Road, about the transformation that is taking place, and about the crisis of the Empire.

We have come to a point in our history where these two stark realities challenge us to make choices, and to commit ourselves to either the road that takes us to peace, prosperity, justice, and human dignity, or the road which takes us down the path of violence, war, injustice and, perhaps, the destruction of human civilization.

We have chosen the path that leads to justice and

human dignity, and that's the path of development—solid, tangible economic development—which would lead to social justice. It is a path which would enhance the productive capacity of the human being to transform his or her environment, to bring about changes which would allow his or her generation and future generations to live in an environment which does justice to our species.

I'm talking here about the path offered by the emergence of the BRICS—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—as a grouping which will have a very big impact upon human civilization. But we'll have to make it happen. It is an idea whose time has come. It is there beckoning to us to make a commitment, and our commitment should be to make the BRICS succeed.

The success of the BRICS means the success of genuine economic development. It means the success of infrastructure transformation; it means linkages; it means establishing connections between peoples and nations, which would lead to a situation where we as human beings would be able to live with dignity.

This is the choice before us. Or we can continue this path of hegemony, of economic dominance, of cultural



Chandra Muzaffar: “Choosing wisely means taking the side of life, as against death.”

control. A path which has led to the misery and the sufferings which we have witnessed for so many decades, and it's getting worse. We cannot allow the situation to continue because it may eventually lead to the death and destruction of human civilization itself. We have witnessed so many wars. So many millions of people have been slaughtered in these wars and in some of the byproducts of these wars.

We are in a situation where economic development has been thwarted and stymied by war, violence, and destruction. We are in a situation where we have epidemics breaking out, sometimes without any logical reason. We have natural calamities which we've not been able to handle well. We have other disasters created by human beings themselves, apart from the war and destruction we have witnessed for so long.

And we have to ask ourselves whether we'd want this to be the burden of future generations, of unborn children, of the generations which had hoped to inherit an Earth, where they'll be able to live in peace and prosperity. We would be betraying their dreams. We would be vanquishing the hopes of millions and millions of people. This is the choice before us, and we have to choose. We cannot postpone the day. We cannot allow unborn generations to condemn us for our failure to act at this critical moment of time. We have to choose, and we have to choose wisely. And choosing wisely means taking the side of life, as against death. That's the choice before us.

Thank you, and all the best to your conference.

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