

Berlin Silk Road Event Welcomes Xian Convoy

Sept. 5—A conference today in Berlin welcomed the arrival in the German capital of a convoy of 10 Chinese-made VW Tiguan cars driven by a Chinese team from Xian, 8,000 kilometers along the old and new Silk Road to Germany. As President Xi Jinping has said, China and Germany are the strongest economies in the world, and the New Silk Road is the “economic belt” connecting the two ends of Eurasia. This was underlined in the introduction by Ban Wei, head of the Germany section of Xinhua Europe.

Meng Fanzhuang, head of the Economics Department of the Chinese Embassy in Berlin, was the first speaker. “As two important economies of the New Silk Road, China and Germany have maintained very close cooperation,” he said, adding that the two countries believe it will boost bilateral strategic cooperation.

The second speaker, Rainer Apel of the German Schiller Institute, was the only German to speak at the event. He traced the Institute’s 20-year campaign for the Eurasian Land-Bridge/New Silk Road, as a grand mission across all Eurasia to secure peace and cooperation, as an entry to a world without war. Apel noted that the conference was the first really public event on the New Silk Road in Europe, other than the Institute’s own conferences over the years. He also pointed out that Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the founder of the Schiller Institute, is currently in China and appeared on CCTV to promote the Silk Road perspective.

The Institute, Apel said, has always consid-

ered the Eurasian Land-Bridge and the New Silk Road the only way for the global economy to return to the principle of man’s activity serving the common good, reversing the degeneration of the British liberal economic model. The New Silk Road will be not only a roadway, but a development corridor, or as Xi Jinping calls it, an economic belt, with industrial and residential settlements, with research and culture centers.

Two more speeches followed, one by Ding Wang, professor at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, focussing on the joint work of German and Chinese archaeologists begun in the 1930s, on the ancient Silk Road in northwest China. The other was a lively report on the VW Tiguan SUV convoy’s tour from Xian to Berlin.

After the presentations, Chinese members of the audience, including representatives of several Chinese news agencies, researchers living in Berlin, and members of the German-Chinese Friendship Society, asked Apel about the Institute and Helga Zepp-LaRouche. And numerous Germans in the audience were enthusiastic, in particular about Apel’s remark that today, Germany can learn from China how to realize projects in a few years and not drag them out 20-30 years.

Ban Wei, the organizer of the event, said afterwards: “What the Silk Road now needs, is concrete projects!”



Chinese President Xi Jinping (center) visits the port of Duisburg, Germany, March 29, 2014, promoting the New Silk Road (as the banner proclaims).