

**WELCOME AND THANK YOU SPEECH – DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR ALAN BARRELL ON
BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION WITHOUT
BORDERS ASSOCIATION**

**At the 5th CUEWB International Student Forum – Shanghai September 17th 2011
Conference at the Shanghai Headquarters of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China**

Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. I'm delighted to be with you at International Forum, Shanghai. On behalf of Cambridge University Education Without Borders, I would like to thank Cambridge University Chinese Cultural Society, ICBC, Shanghai HighTech Human Resources Association and Shanghai Shanxi Entrepreneur Association, for supporting and opening this forum. I would also like to express our sincere gratitude to all the speakers, for kindly donating their time, to share their valuable experience with us all today.

Today I speak on behalf of the Committee of Students who started and run CUEWB. Cambridge University Education Without Borders is a non-profit student society. I am proud to be the one of the advisors and have been honoured to speak at all four previous CUEWB Forum events. We aim to share educational resources worldwide, and break the barrier between academics and industry. Since our foundation in 2007, hundreds of students who share our goal have joined us, and we have gained broad support from both the academic and the business communities. To inspire students and promote knowledge exchange worldwide, we have been organising a variety of international programmes, including the **"Success: Vision & Action"** series of forums given by prominent speakers of an international standing.

In December 2007, we held our global launch event, International Forum, Beijing in the capital of China. The forum provided the opportunity for more than 600 students, selected from the 15 top universities in Beijing to hear six world-class speakers, who had given their view of China, and of what it takes for young Chinese people to succeed in today's globalised world. In March last year, we organised our second international forum, in collaboration with Xiamen University in China. With talks, seminars, and discussion sessions, given and hosted by a panel of five world-class speakers, the Xiamen forum brought together over 500 inquisitive and motivated university students, and empowered them to turn their vision into action. A year and a half ago, we successfully held our third international forum in Cambridge. Then, in October last year, the fourth International Forum took place with wonderful hosts – Hong Kong Polytechnic University and 500 students from six Universities attended. Feedback from the forum participants has greatly encouraged us to organise more such forums, as a continuation of our effort, to bring the concept of education without borders to a wider audience. And here we are in wonderful Shanghai in this fine lecture hall.

Why is the concept of education without borders important? A recent World Bank publication proposes a new development paradigm for the 21st century, based on knowledge and innovation. It proposes 4 interactive pillars for a knowledge economy: an enabling and open economic and institutional regime, a strong information infrastructure, a focus on bringing in global knowledge and innovation and to create new knowledge, and finally, an educated and skilled population that can use knowledge effectively. And globalisation brings with it a very different operating environment, where nations and businesses need to cooperate with one and another, in order to innovate, accumulate, and prosper. There is an increasing consensus that skills taught in universities should be in line with the needs of the global economy. The strengths and the capabilities that universities develop in their graduates, must be matched to business and industry needs. A recent

report in the UK clearly linked knowledge transfer by graduates to economic growth. It argues that R&D and knowledge transfer within our universities, raises the economic competitiveness of the country, provided it is exploited fully by businesses. Nelson Mandela said, **“Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.”**

From the team of Cambridge University education Without Borders – THANK YOU for your presence and support today.