

## **The International Honor that Follows Real Distinction**

Speech at Award Ceremony of Medal Cesare Beccaria of iSSD

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Dear President Pedro David,

Dear President John Vervaele

Dear President Luis Arroyo Zapatero

Dear General-Secretary Francesco Vigano

Dear Colleagues and friends,

Good morning.

Today, we all observed the historical moment of the International Society of Social Defense and Humane Criminal Policy (the iSSD) awarding the Medal Cesare Beccaria to Professor Mingxuan GAO, a distinguished criminal academic in modern China. Please allow me and my colleagues, Professor Jianping LU, Professor Xiumei WANG and Dr. Zhenjie ZHOU to extend our warmest congratulation to our respected mentor Professor Gao, and sincere and deep gratitude to the iSSD as representatives of Chinese academics who are present at this UN Crime Congress.

The iSSD is one of the most famous academic body in the field of international criminal science with a long history, profound effect and the consultative status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The purpose that iSSD established the Medal Cesare Beccaria is to award those who make great contribution to facilitating the realization of rule of law and humanity in the field of criminal law worldwide. Professor Gao and professor Delmas-Marty, academician of French Academy of Sciences, and Professor Cherif Bassiouni, former President of AIDP and forerunner of international criminal law, are old friends, and they respect each other and have made noticeable achievements in years of cooperation. Professor Gao is a distinguished representative of Chinese jurists of the old generation. He has nurtured thousands of legal academics. He constructed and promoted the modern system of Chinese criminal law and theories. He actively participated in the whole process of

drafting and amending Chinese Criminal Code, and also helped Chinese criminal law internationalized. Therefore, he is respected as the highest authority in Chinese criminal law circle and a senior criminal law academic with international perspective. The iSSD awarded Professor GAO with the Medal of Cesare Beccaria for his “high achievements in developing a modern science of criminal law in China, inspired by respect for human rights and oriented towards a humanist policy” and that his “teaching activity has generated a wide and highly qualified academic offspring of academic”. This comment is pertinent and exact. It is fair to say that Professor GAO won this prize with actual achievements, and this honor follows his real distinction.

Although as old as the age of 87 this year, Professor Gao is still working at the forefront of legal education and research with faith in rule of law, deep respect for humanism and aspiration of post-80s youth. He is now the distinguished professor Ph.D. candidate supervisor, honorary president of AIDP China Branch and of Chinese Criminal Law Society, guiding the development of the cause of Chinese criminal law. Professor GAO is an old horse in the stable dreaming of heroic exploits. To some extent, that the iSSD awarded Professor GAO with the Medal Cesare Becaaria is to a degree the highest praise to the institution and academic team where he works, a full recognition of Chinese criminal law research and of developments in modern developments in rule of law in China, and warm expectation of Chinese young legal academics. There is a Chinese old saying that goes that “seeing a man of virtue, we should try to become his equal”. Therefore, we will follow Professor GAO’s footsteps and devote ourselves to carrying forward the spirit of and promoting the construction of rule of law.

Finally, I’d like to extend my warmest congratulations to Professor GAO and high appreciation to iSSD again. And thank you very much, my dear colleagues and friends for attending this grand ceremony.

Thank you.