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International Association of Penal Law
Asociación Internacional de Derecho Penal

Paris, le 17 Avril

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Ceremony to Present the Beccaria Medal to Prof. Gao

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Member of the Chinese Delegation

Dear colleague and friend Prof. Gao,

It is my privilege to address you today on behalf of the International Association of Criminal Law (AIDP) at this beautiful and meaningful moment.

I would like to thank the Société Internationale de Défense Sociale for the invitation to the AIDP, as Prof. Gao has always been a very active member. He was a longtime the president of the national Chinese group and later guided us in the different committees of the AIDP. His actual honorary vice-presidency of the AIDP reflects his merits.

You, Prof. Gao, deserve the Beccaria medal more than anyone for your extraordinary work and personality.

You have been teaching scholars for more than 60 years and are still teaching; you have supervised more than 60 PhD researchers and among them are famous scholars such as, here present, Prof. Zhao and Prof. Wang.

You are not only an influential scholar at a high level, but also a person with a strong interest in justice reform and criminal policy. Since the very beginning of your career you have been involved in the process of the codification of criminal law and its reforms. You have also been strongly influential in the transposition of international conventions into domestic Chinese law .

International academic cooperation and exchange has been another field in which you have invested a great deal. You already visited the USA in 1983 and have left your footprints all over the world. Since 1990 you have opened the gates for the Chinese criminal justice scholars and shown them the outside world. In 1995 you also established the Centre for Criminal Legal Science at Beijing Normal University; a leading center in China that has existed for exactly 10 years and in which you

Secretariat : AIDP, 12 Charles FOURIER, F-75013 PARIS

Tel : (33) (0)1.79.25.45.76 FAX : (33) (0)1.55.04.92.89 Email : secretariat@penal.org

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will certainly be a key-figure of its celebration in the forthcoming August.

Dear colleague and friend Prof. Gao, you have always been on the bridge between the Chinese criminal justice system and its outside world. You converted the outside into the inside and the inside into the outside. With virtue you contributed to the country in the Middle, *Zhongguo* (中國/中国) and *Zhonghua* (中華/中华) .

With good reason you were not interested in developing scholars who would become leading specialists in, for instance, German dogmatics. You were interested in researchers able to carry out comparative research and to apply the best of it to China and also to export the best of China to the external world.

As a person with great interest in the new, in the innovative, including new technology and social media today, you have always been and still are ahead of your age and time.

Given your inspiring creativity, leadership and ownership of virtue and ethical values, Beccaria would have been a great friend of yours and would have admired you, as we all do.

Dear Prof Gao, Dear Friend, many, many congratulations and the AIDP wishes you a long life ahead.

Prof. Dr. John Vervaele

President of the AIDP

