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Celebrating Prof. Jinhua Chen's election to the Royal Society of Canada

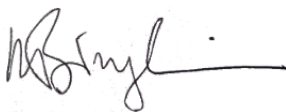
Dear friends and colleagues,

It is my distinct pleasure to respond to Prof. Mostow's call for messages to celebrate Prof. Jinhua Chen's election to the Royal Society of Canada.

I first met Jinhua a defining moment in my life – my first day in Kyōto when I was introduced to the late Antonino Forte and other scholars in Buddhism. This must have been in 1996. We met in the lobby of the famous *Istituto italiano di cultura* and exchanged a few words. Our acquaintance would resume only years later when we roomed in the same dormitory during a conference at Ciji University in Hualian in the early 2000s. There we had more time to talk and since then our ways have crossed again and again in many places. Like many scholars in the field of Buddhist Studies I have greatly profited not only from Jinhua's many excellent contributions to the history of Chinese Buddhism, but also from the many events he organized.

Jinhua has worked hard, more than anyone I know, to build bridges and open communication channels between academic circles in North America, Asia, and Europe. Having just finished a three year term as organizer of a FROGBEAR cluster, I have come to appreciate again how powerful Jinhua's vision is and how it has grown to be a major influence in the field of East Asian religion. To involve graduate students and advanced scholars in seminars, workshops, and site-visits all over the world, has now become the norm rather the exception and the resulting networks have greatly strengthened our community. The field of Buddhist Studies owes him for building the infrastructure of a sustained and fruitful dialog across research cultures.

I want to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Jinhua. I am glad that his scholarship, teaching and engagement have received the well-deserved honor of membership in Canada's leading academic society. May this success encourage him to keep going for many years to come. I look forward to future books, conferences, and seeing his ideas unfold.



Prof. Dr. Marcus Bingenheimer
Department of Religion, Temple University