

**Some words to celebrate CHEN Jinhua's election to the Royal Society of Canada
December 2, 2020**

Congratulations, Jinhua! Your membership in the Royal Society of Canada is so richly deserved. I offer congratulations and appreciation for your making Buddhist studies such a strong, vibrant field.

Surely the primary basis for this honor is that you are the preeminent scholar worldwide in the study of Chinese Buddhism. Your six monographs, many edited volumes, and scores of substantial articles and book chapters speak for themselves. They attest to your meticulousness as a scholar, your wide-ranging imagination, and your amazing ability to follow the evidence wherever it leads, even if the subject does not concern the fifteen-year dynasty of China's only female emperor. You have opened up many new areas of studies that go beyond Empress Wu, including Buddhism and other religious traditions in medieval China, Japan, Korea, India, and elsewhere.

I also want to take advantage of this public occasion to pay tribute to a second remarkable quality: your generosity. Not only are you unstinting in sharing your knowledge, as I and many others who have benefited from your helpful feedback and gentle corrections can attest. But more than that: you devote a superhuman amount of time to fostering the personal friendships, institutional networks, and work of intercultural translation that sustain our global field of study.

For all that and more, I offer my congratulations and join a large group of well-wishers in celebrating your honor on this day.

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