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{section:20584}

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**Nishan Women's Forum Focuses on Gender Equality and Female Empowerment**

November 22, 2016

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By Qilu WebEditor: Rong Chen

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| Attendees listen to scholars' dialogues at the Nishan Women's Forum focusing on women and sustainable development. [iqilu.com] |

Six global scholars attached great importance to the issue of [women's efforts](http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/china/1611/4330-1.htm) in sustainable development of all mankind during the Nishan Women's Forum on November 16.

For the first time, this women's forum was held in the city of Qufu, east China's Shandong Province, which is known as the birthplace of Chinese ancient philosopher Confucius (551 BC – 479 BC).

Under the theme of "Traditional Culture and Ecological Progress: Marching toward a Green and Simple Life," the forum was affiliated to the Nishan Forum on World Civilizations, which was initiated by Xu Jialu, former vice-director of the Executive Committee of the National People's Congress.

The First Nishan Forum was held in September 2010, during which the Nishan Declaration of Harmony was issued, calling for dialogue and communication among civilizations.

Xu vowed to continue organizing the Nishan Women's Forum whilst focusing on women's progress.

"Women's development has become a global issue highlighted through respecting and taking care of them," believed Xu.

"Children are encouraged to have the consciousness of gender equality, thus eradicating the roots of gender discrimination or violence in later life," suggested Xu.

"The sub-forum was set to make women's voices better heard and to stimulate attention around women's rights protection worldwide," said Liu Chuansheng, principal of Beijing Normal University and vice-chairperson of the organizing committee.

"Global women have contributed to overall global development," pointed out Hans d'Orville, assistant director-general of UNESCO. "To promote [gender equality](http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/china/1611/4128-1.htm), women should have endowed equal rights with men, for example, in terms of education and employment."

"Even though women have largely promoted global trade, they are less able to have decisive power in key issues compared to men," pointed out Mehri Madarshahi, president of the Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations Association. "Meanwhile, women are encouraged to contribute their efforts from various fields to advancing humans' sustainable development," she added.

"Only 29 percent of Indian women are able to have a job vocation, compared to those who live in remote areas having no consciousness of education, let alone work," reported another Indian scholar.

"The United Nations (UN) has aimed to transform the world we live in after issuing The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which gender quality is highlighted as a significant issue among the 17 sustainable goals for the next 15 years," noted Lü Hailin, executive committee president of the UN's Women's International Forum.

"It is important to make groundbreaking and solid efforts in advancing women's development worldwide," noted Zhang Youyun, the forum host and director of the International Labor Organization.

"This forum has shed light upon women's responsibility in global sustainable development, which echoes with the statement of the Nishan Forum in promoting cultural diversification," commented Zhang Yinjun, executive president of the forum.

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| Xu Jialu speaks at the forum. [iqilu.com]  Mehri Madarshahi speaks at the forum. [iqilu.com]  Macintosh HD:Users:mehrimadarshahi:Desktop:web site pictures:IMG_5407.jpg | |
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{section:20598}{section:20293}

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