



# A Taster for the Chinese Traditions MOOC

Jinfeng Zhou, CBCGDF

Linda Wong, CBCGDF

[jz@cbcgdf.org](mailto:jz@cbcgdf.org)

[linda.wong@cbcgdf.org](mailto:linda.wong@cbcgdf.org)

# The Diversity and Inclusiveness of the Chinese Traditions

Just like the great rivers of China, the Yellow River in the north, the Yangtze River in the middle and the Pearl River basin in the south, the life of the Chinese traditions has been enriched by an interwoven and intertwined network of streams of wisdom. (Confucianism, Buddhism and Daoism)

百家争鸣



万国衣冠拜冕旒





# Ideas of the Chinese Traditions MOOC: To Respect, Conform to and Protect Nature



*Example: The Guangcai Cause for Entrepreneurs (since 1994)*



*Daoism: “The ability to use and deploy people. Use employees in ways which bring out their potentials.” (Fan Li, The Twelve Golden Rules)*

- Principle: Mutual benefit, balance between justice and benefit
- Focus: Project investment, resources development, setting up of enterprises, talent training, trade development, and economic development and educational progress in poor areas through various methods including donations
- Dr Zhou Jinfeng is the prime driver in launching the Guangcai Cause. With the objective of eliminating poverty, especially in the least favored areas of China, the cause has been instrumental in sustainably helping more than 20 million people out of poverty and at the same time playing a key role in the development of China's private economy.

经商法则十：用人要方正，切勿歪斜，歪斜则托付难



# Time for Ecological Civilization



- The mode of extensive economic development has caused a series of damages to the ecological environment, including rapid loss of biodiversity, water pollution and soil pollution.
- Ecological civilization has been proposed as a new cultural paradigm, which as opposed to industrial civilization features a central emphasis on the harmonious development of humankind and nature.
- To meet the challenges posed by today's environmental crises, green entrepreneurs should be even more active in shouldering this historic mission, practicing green entrepreneurship and carrying forward this green idea with their own practical actions and experiences.

工业文明无以为继



# Buddhism: The Well-being of All Life is Equally Valuable



*Buddhism is a religion of love, understanding and compassion and committed towards the ideal of non-violence. As such, it also attaches great importance to wildlife and the protection of the environment on which every being in this world depends for survival.*

- The third prince of the King Carta in India Mahasattoo went hunting in the mountains one day, and saw a female tiger carrying several cubs hungry. The female tiger wanted to eat the cubs. Seeing this, Mahasattoo stabbed his body with limon, and then jumped off the cliff to let the tigress eat blood. After regaining its strength by eating blood, the tigress and the little tigers consumed all the meat on Mahasattou. Mahasattoo was willing to sacrifice his body in order to save the tiger's life.

众生平等



# Daoism: To Follow the Natural Way of Nature



## 道法自然



*From ancient times to the present, Daoism in China has highlighted respect for nature. Its ideas center on the harmony between heaven, earth, and humanity, and a shared prosperity of all beings.*

- Construction of Beijing Nanyuan Forest Wetland Park. The CBCGDF volunteer survey found that the number of bird species in the developed areas has dropped to less than 10, while the undeveloped areas with their original native vegetation still have about 40 bird species.





*From Confucian values comes not just academic study but considered action, which is virtuous, responsible, and caring life. A story of Confucius can be a good example of this idea: “The Master angled, but did not use a net. He shot, but not at birds perching.” (The Analects) This is to tell people to be kind to animals, not to overkill, affecting the normal reproduction of fish.*

- China attaches importance to Pacific island countries whose survival is threatened by climate change. Due to global industrial development, rising sea levels and extreme weather events in the Pacific region will aggravate existing development concerns and pose a survival threat to island nations with lower terrain. China has provided assistance to the island countries and joined hands to promote the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and a green, low-carbon, and sustainable mode of development.



# Righteousness in Action

义者宜也



*“The thoughtful person’s mind is conversant with righteousness; the mind of the mean person is conversant with gain.” (The Analects, Li Ren)*

- People often see gains but forget harm. The mode of extensive economic development has caused a series of damages to the ecological environment. Chinese pangolin has been listed as a critically endangered species by the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, as a result of profit-driven large-scale human hunting.
- CBCGDF continuous efforts for protecting pangolins have been in no vain. In June, all species of pangolins have been successfully promoted from the second-class national protected wild animals to the first-class. Second, CBCGDF successfully pushed for the removal of pangolins from the First Edition of the Chinese Pharmacopoeia.



# Proper Conduct in Action

## 克己复礼



向塑料书皮说no



中国绿发会

*The Master Confucius said: “At fifteen, I had my mind bent on learning. At thirty, I stood firm. At forty, I had no doubts. At fifty, I knew the decrees of Heaven. At sixty, my ear was an obedient organ for the reception of truth. At seventy, I could follow what my heart desired, without transgressing what was right.” (The Analects)*

- If people fulfill their duties and observe their manners, society will be stable and prosperous.
- CBCGDF Human-based Solutions. In 2019, CBCGDF wrote to the Ministry of Education, calling their attention to the plastic book cover problem prevalent in primary and middle schools. In 2020, the Ministry of Education announced a notice, stopping schools from forcing students to wrap up their books. This will lead to a reduction of 1 billion plastic book covers to be produced and used. CBCGDF has required take-out platforms to reduce the supply of disposable tableware and provide consumers with green options.



*“To be fond of learning is to be near to knowledge.” (The Mean)*

- Confucianism believes that people can have wisdom, knowledge and talents through persistent learning; through actively participating in social practice, people can understand the importance of loving each other; through distinguishing between honor and disgrace, right and wrong, good and evil, people can uphold justice.
- Since 2000, precipitation in central and western regions of China has increased significantly, such as Gansu, Xinjiang, Tibet and other places. Why has this happened? In July 2020, the CBCGDF officially launched the "Lop Nur Biodiversity Survey and Monitoring" project. This project will record the changes and current status of genes, species, and ecosystems in Lop Nur, and provide scientific support for the development of the western region and major engineering decisions.







*“I don’t know how a man without truthfulness is to get on. How can a large carriage be made to go without the crossbar for yoking the oxen to, or a small carriage without the arrangement for yoking the horses?” (The Analects)*

- Truthfulness reflects the basic requirements of social interaction. From the perspective of green entrepreneurs, truthfulness can be their social responsibilities. What are they? At present, in addition to entrepreneurs’ basic social responsibilities of producing commodities and developing productivity, they also need to assume the responsibilities of sustainable development and resource conservation, protecting the environment and maintaining the harmony of nature.
- CBCGDF filed the first environmental public interest litigation against State Grid Energy Hami Coal Power Co., Ltd. in Xinjiang for damaging the ecological environment.



*Once there were two mountains, Taihang and Wangwu, at the north of Yellow River. At the foot of the two mountains lived a 90-year-old man named Yu Gong, directly opposite the mountain. Yu Gong was frustrated by the blockage of the mountains thus wanted to remove them. One day, another villager Zhi Sou taunted Yu Gong and stopped him, saying: “How stupid! With the strength of your last years, what can you do about the mountains?” Yu Gong sighed and said, “You are so stubborn. Even if I die, there will still be my son; and he will give birth to my grandchildren; my grandchildren will give birth to his son. Our generations will pass on, but the mountains will not grow higher, so why cannot the two mountains be leveled? (Liezi, Tang Wen)*



# A Few Reflections for Future



*There is one saying from the Chinese tradition that: “When a thing reaches its extreme, changes are needed so that it can continue to develop.” (Zhou Yi) The human world is changing with each passing day, and the interpretation of the classics is always new. In the face of the three crises of biodiversity loss, climate change and public health emergency, it is important for people to use the wisdom of predecessors to interpret today's beliefs and to cultivate their personal life ethics.*



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China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation

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