



北京大學 国际法学院

Peking University School of Transnational Law

The Dean of STL

Receives

The 2011 Friendship Award

from

The People's Republic of China



Presentation by Vice Premier Zhang DeJiang

Friendship Award Granted to STL's Dean

On September 29, 2011, Jeffrey S. Lehman, Chancellor and Founding Dean of the Peking University School of Transnational Law, received the 2011 “Friendship Award,” China’s highest award for foreign experts who have made outstanding contributions to China’s economic and social development.

The Friendship Award is awarded by the State Administration of Foreign Expert Affairs and is authorized by the State Council of the People’s Republic of China. Vice Premier Zhang DeJiang presided at the Sept. 29 ceremony in Beijing, and Lehman was one of 50 foreign experts from around the world to receive the honor.

The award ceremony took place in the West Hall of the Great Hall of the People. It was attended by vice ministers of five different government departments. During the ceremony, Lehman was one of two honorees invited to speak on behalf of the group. His observations on the topic of friendship were well received.

The following day, Premier Wen JiaBao met with the award recipients in the Hebei Room of the Great Hall of the People. In the group photo of the recipients, Lehman was seated between Premier Wen and Vice Premier Zhang. Video footage of Premier Wen shaking hands with Lehman was broadcast that evening on the CCTV-13 television network.



About Jeffrey S. Lehman:

Jeffrey S. Lehman has been serving as the Founding Dean and Chancellor of Peking University School of Transnational Law (“STL”), located in Shenzhen, China, since 2007. Since its founding, STL has quickly emerged as an important new form of legal education in China, attracting gifted students to study an innovative new curriculum, taught by some of America’s most talented law professors.

Lehman has previously been president of Cornell University, dean of the University of Michigan Law School, a tenured professor of law and public policy, a practicing tax lawyer, a law clerk to Associate Justice John Paul Stevens, and a law clerk to Chief Judge Frank M. Coffin. He is currently on leave from his position on the faculty of Cornell University.

Lehman serves as an independent director of Infosys Technologies, chairman of the board of Infosys Public Services, a trustee of Internet2, a trustee of New York University – Shanghai, and a senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. He previously served as president of the American Law Deans Association.

Lehman has received an honorary doctorate from Peking University, honorary professorships at several other universities, and the National Equal Justice Award from the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. He earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Cornell University and advanced degrees in law and public policy from the University of Michigan.



ON FRIENDSHIP

Remarks at the 2011 PRC Friendship Awards Ceremony

Great Hall of the People

Jeffrey S. Lehman

September 29, 2011

Esteemed Vice Premier Zhang, Friends, and Colleagues,

I am filled with gratitude for the honor that you have bestowed upon us today. And I feel doubly honored to have been invited to speak on behalf of the recipients to this extraordinarily distinguished audience.

In the time since I learned that I would be one of the recipients of the Friendship Award, I have been reflecting on its very special qualities, and what they reveal about the China I have come to know and love.

Many countries recognize foreigners for the work they have done with their country. For example, France has the Legion of Honor. Germany has the Order of Merit. England bestows an honorary knighthood.

These are all deeply meaningful acts of appreciation by the governments of those countries. And yet I cannot help feeling that China is giving us something even more meaningful.

To me, terms like honor, merit, and even knighthood reflect a kind of arm's-length assessment of an individual's actions, in the way that we teachers give grades to

students on their examinations. China has chosen a different vocabulary to appreciate our work here. Instead of the vocabulary of arm's length assessment, China has chosen the vocabulary of connection and relationship. We are receiving friendship awards.

During my time in China, I have been amazed by how easily my Chinese hosts have befriended this foreigner. Old or young, teacher or student, shopkeeper or security guard, they have welcomed me into their community with open arms.

I am not unusual in this sensation. For the past three years, I have lived and worked in Shenzhen, helping the Peking University School of Transnational Law to train lawyers who will serve as human bridges across cultures. Most of our courses are taught by professors from abroad, mostly from American law schools. Our visitors always ask if they can return, citing the deep connection and relationship they feel with our students, our Chinese professional staff, and the larger community we inhabit.

Perhaps that is why I find it so natural that China uses the language of friendship to appreciate work done by a foreigner. And perhaps that is why I feel that, in my own case, the Friendship Award is more a recognition of our school than it is of me as an individual.

This morning, I naturally ask myself what more I can do to strengthen this connection, this relationship, this friendship that has become so important to my own life.

If I think about how other people have been great friends to me, five things come to mind: how they have been committed to helping me find contentment in both the short run and the long run, how they have responded when I asked for assistance, how they have shown me that they really want me to ask for that assistance, how they have used their own experiences to help me learn, and how they have been willing to let me return the favor and help them, so that the support has been mutual.

My hope is that I will be able, in these ways, to be a good friend to China in the future. I hope that China will always feel free to ask my assistance, and that I will be able to help well. I hope that China will be able to draw benefit from my own particular experiences – as an American who loves America and her people and who understands their sometimes mysterious ways, as a lawyer who believes that law can strengthen the development of all societies, and as a teacher whose greatest joy comes when a student's creative insight enables me to see the world in an exciting new way. Finally, I hope that my connection with and relationship to China will continue to deepen all the days of my life.

Shanah Tovah.

总理会见2011年度“友谊奖”获奖外国专家

2011



At the official photograph ceremony the following evening, Dean Lehman was seated between Premier Wen JiaBao and Vice Premier Zhang DeJiang.



Close-Up



Reported by CCTV

Click the link to watch the CCTV report: <http://www.stl.pkusz.edu.cn/cn/friendshipaward/.aspx>



Award Certificate



Award Medal