

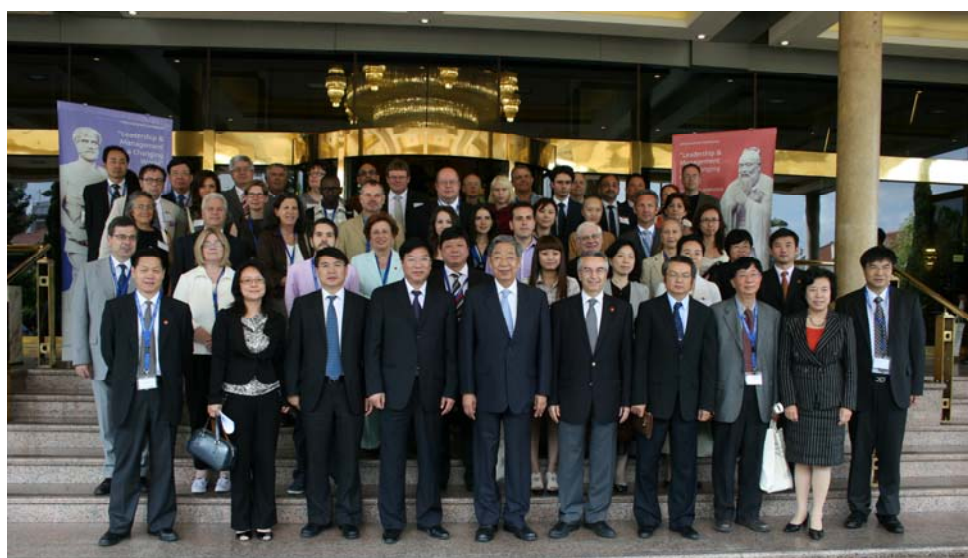
Press Release

International Conference of the Athens University of Economics and Business in association with the University of International Business and Economics, Beijing on

"LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN A CHANGING WORLD: LESSONS FROM ANCIENT EAST AND WEST PHILOSOPHY"

www.leadershipclassics.org

The Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB) in association with the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE), Beijing, organized an International Conference on "Leadership and Management in a Changing World: Lessons from Ancient East and West Philosophy" on July 12-14, 2011 in Athens, in combination with the Confucius Institute in Athens of AUEB. Chairs of the Conference were the Rector of AUEB, Professor Gregory Prastacos and Professor Wang Fuming, UIBE.



As mentioned by Professor Gregory Prastacos, the Rector of AUEB and the ringleader of significant cooperation developed between AUEB and China, "The conference emerged at the aftermath of the global economic crisis, when a group of professors from Greece and China were debating on innovative approaches to management education, management research and leadership training, that could correspond in the complexity of modern challenges and crises. In this serious interrogation we strongly believed that ancient East and West philosophy can contribute significant ideas, since consistency, self-knowledge, fairness, responsibility of our actions and their affects on others, self-discipline and innumerable other values dominant to these philosophies constitute core characteristics that organizations and business leaders should manifest today".

These values also prove to be very useful to the improvement of the quality of life. As Professor Xu Jialu, the Vice Chairman of the 10th National People's

Congress Standing Committee, noted, “The quality of our life is improving along with the technological development? Are the personal relationships improving? Is the environment improving? I am afraid not – in these matters we are moving backwards. It has become a necessity to study our ancient philosophers in order to get the appropriate lessons”.

The need for mutual understanding and acceptance of cultural differences between the countries was also emphasized, and the moral values and principles, which characterize the cultures of East and West were connected with the modern practices of management. The presentation of contemporary case studies from the East and West brought to the light the characteristics of a capable and effective leader, whereas cases of successful companies that base their operation in values, lessons and practices inspired from the ancient east and west philosophy were also presented. Solutions deriving by these fundamentals were proposed so that to cover the gaps between theory and practice of corporate governance, while the effect of these lessons was discussed upon innovation, the confrontation of crises and development. Finally, the above mentioned solutions were linked with the modern theory and practice in management education.

More than 100 scholars from more than 20 countries, and a significant number of University Rectors and Professors participated at the Conference. The highlights of the conference included a roundtable on “The Reflective Business Leader: Paths to Ethical and Sustainable Business Development”, where CEOs from Greek companies participated, and the official ceremony of the conference in the evening of June 13th in the archaeological site of Roman Agora. The President of the Hellenic Republic, Dr Karolos Papoulias, the Minister of Education, Mrs. Anna Diamantopoulou, the Vice Chairman of the 10th National People’s Congress Standing Committee, Professor Xu Jialu, the Ambassador of China, Mr. Luo Linquan, the Rector of UIBE, Professor Shi Jianjun, the associate CEO of Hanban, Mr. Wang Yongli and many significant representatives of the academic and the corporate world from Greece and abroad honored the ceremony with their presence. The inspired talks of the speakers and the harp music performed by the famous musician and Professor Li Ying under the moonlight made the ceremony an unforgettable experience.



The proceedings of the Conference, the first on this topic worldwide, will be published in a special edition of Springer Verlag Publisher. More information about the program of the Conference, the keynote speakers and their research papers is available at www.leadershipclassics.org