



Rejestr nr 5332

PALKIEWICZ FOUNDATION

President JACEK PALKIEWICZ

A Letter to the Organizers:

Dear Friends,

I am full of appreciation for your initiative, rediscovering the turbulent history of the long-lost empires, distant and exotic lands, camel caravans, scorching deserts, or the Muslim architecture of Bukhara. Just as in the times of the ancient trade route, when great civilizations exchanged their achievements in technology and knowledge, their religions and ideas met and mixed, and so today their cultural heritage may be a serious platform for international cooperation. This is especially true in today's globalization and cosmopolitan lifestyle, permeated by the every-present Coca Cola and McDonald's hamburgers, when customs, the role of religion, native cultures and nationalities are disappearing.

This historical transport network is not only a prototype for the new 21st century routes, but it is also an unprecedented harbinger of qualitative changes throughout the world. The economic potential of the old caravan route has tempted China to create an epochal vision of new types of global trade routes and a world economy. According to specialists, the initiative of Belt and Road is a venture that has never been seen in the world's entire economic history. Its implementation, which requires reconciling many conflicting interests, will mean that the world as we know it will cease to exist.

The magic of the Orient has always tempted me with its mystery, stimulating one's imagination with the peculiar atmosphere of past times, unknown lands and scenes of camel caravans. Since 1972, I have treaded many Asian roads and paths and hiked between the peaks of Bhutan, seen Angkor's temples and the rice fields in Bali. I met the Dajak "head hunters" in Borneo, visited the gambling rooms in Macau, met the Korowaj from Papua West and the Jarai tribe in Vietnam, observed the opium palaces in Laos, and eaten grasshoppers in Burma and dog meat in Vietnam. My paths have crossed each other a hundred times at the guest houses of the legendary Silk Road, the places Marco Polo wandered through. I trod in his footsteps, saw the same objects or whatever was left of them after seven hundred years. Therefore, I am jealous of your exciting adventure.

The restoration and revival of the Silk Road tradition, which has become one of the most powerful brands in the world, maybe even bigger than Disney or Coca Cola, is a great challenge and a huge initiative. This immeasurable artery, which penetrated burning deserts, sky-high mountains and raging rivers, today is also not easy to overcome due to political barriers, unstable regions, administrative restrictions or archaic procedures at border crossings.

Dear friends, I wish you all the best in undertaking this exceptional project, a captivating experience, as you get to know the trails of the former era, a living testimony of past cultures and an unforgettable adventure.

Jacek Palkiewicz

Warsaw, April 4, 2019

01-772 Warsaw
Sady Żoliborskie 2/39
+48-695354010
jacek@palkiewicz.com

www.palkiewicz.com