

# Cyberspace governance leads to more freedom



Prof. Shen Yi, director of the Research Center of Cyberspace Governance at Fudan University [Photo provided to China.org.cn]

Governance and freedom on the internet go hand in hand rather than being incompatible elements, an expert reiterated ahead of the one-year anniversary of Chinese President Xi Jinping's speech during a symposium on cyber security and informatization in Beijing on April 19, 2016.

At the symposium, President Xi, who also heads the Central Internet Security and Informatization Leading Group, called for comprehensive development of the internet and ensuring it could be harnessed for the benefit of the country and the people.

Xi made the call as cybersecurity security has become so vital that all countries agree better governance of cyberspace is essential for a prosperous shared future for all.

Most countries applauded President Xi's proposal for building a community of shared future in cyberspace.

"The proposal features the greatest common divisor. It is inclusive enough so

that no one stands out to oppose it," said Prof. Shen Yi, director of the Research Center of Cyberspace Governance at Fudan University in Shanghai, adding that many countries hoped that "community of shared future" be more tangible and practical.

"In his speech, President Xi Jinping outlined the framework for cyber security and informatization development, which in essence is to shape a new order in cyberspace based on respecting the principle of cyberspace sovereign equality as the core," he said. "China has been contributing to the promotion of this new order. Xi's speech was one of the cases in point."

He explained that the freedom in cyberspace, in a broader sense, refers to the aspect that all countries, big or small, have equal rights to enjoy resources in cyberspace to serve their own development, to implement independent policies on internet management and to participate in the formulation of a new order for global cyberspace.

Cyberspace should be governed in line with the concept of a three-level structure, stressed Shen. He noted that the three levels were physical facility, logic codes and digital personality, all requiring good management.

On the bottom level is the physical facility, including access devices, wires and physical storage space. "These facilities surely have property attributes and are naturally under the jurisdiction of a government," said Shen. "You can't tamper with the servers of others or copy data from them without authorization."

Regarding the middle level of logic codes, the relevant national watchdog should monitor the flow of codes and detect malware. "Malware isn't necessarily computer viruses. The damages they are capable of causing range from the theft of personal financial information to the breach of a country's network security," said Shen.

The "emailgate" controversy affecting Hillary Clinton during the 2016 U.S. presidential elections showed that even the United States, a superpower in cyberspace, was not exempted from cyberattack. "As for another conclusion, a responsible country should prohibit such activities [hacking another country's network] in cyberspace," said Shen.

Digital personality, the top level, refers to how individuals act on the internet. At the 2016 symposium, Xi required officials to welcome well-meant criticism raised on the internet, "be it gentle or harsh-sounding."

However, disciplining people's online behavior does not contradict President Xi's demand for more tolerance and patience to internet users. Shen stressed that internet users' behavior should also be subjected to supervision, the same as people's offline behavior.

He was confident that Chinese leaders have the courage and political responsibility to innovate the approach to cyberspace governance.

"The best way to clarify online rumors is to line them up with the true facts and let people reach their own conclusions," he said. "However, for

professional rumormongers, those who spread unfounded, false rumors for profit, we should crack down because they are destroying society's trust and their gains are at the cost of society's injury."

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## Way Back When – Life as an Art Student discussion event

From the Curator of Museum Services, University of Dundee :



**Way Back When – Life as an Art Student discussion event**

**Tuesday 18th April 2017, 5.30pm at the D'Arcy Thompson Lecture Theatre, Tower Building, University of Dundee.**

To accompany the exhibition of Walter Simms' photographs in the Tower Foyer Gallery, this special event will feature Walter and some of his fellow graduates from Duncan of Jordanstone College reminiscing about their experiences as art students in Dundee in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Free admission but please book [here](#).

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## Recording of the week: Akabira for flute ensemble

*This week's selection comes from Tom Miles, Metadata Manager and Curator of*

## [Europeana Music](#).

This song, "Akabira", was recorded by Klaus Wachsmann in Kasule, Uganda, in 1954. Nshegu is the name given to an ensemble of flute players: the five members of the ensemble (pictured) each play an end-blown, composite cone-flute with a single note (some flutes have more than one note). By playing in a particular order, the nshegu players are able to create a vibrant, complex web of sound.

### [Akabira for flute ensemble](#)



Toro Flute Set, Kasule, Uganda, 6 July 1954

This is just one of over 1500 of Wachsmann's recordings which are available on [British Library Sounds](#).

Follow [@tommilesz](#), [@BL\\_WorldTrad](#) and [@EuropeanaMusic](#) for all the latest news.

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## [10 killed in bus accident in SW China](#)

Ten people died and five others were injured when a bus plunged into a river in Southwest China's Guizhou Province Monday, local authorities said.

The accident happened at around 8:30 a.m. in Kaiyang, an outer county of the provincial capital Guiyang, the county government said in a statement.

The 19-seat bus, en route from Kaiyang to Weng'an county in Bouyei-Miao autonomous prefecture of Qiannan, veered off a road bridge on provincial highway S305 and fell into the river, it said. Four people were reported missing in the accident.

Rescue work was continuing as of 12 p.m.

The local government has launched an investigation.

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## [Parliament will be sovereign](#)

Parliament can make mountains out of any molehill in the UK, once we have left the EU. It is curious that those most hostile to our departure from the EU now claim to be the most protective of the very Parliamentary sovereignty they so wantonly gave away. They need not worry. Out of the EU, Parliament

can debate and vote on anything it wishes. It can hold government to account and change the law any day it likes.

The synthetic anger over the so called Henry VIII clauses in the Great Repeal Bill are just such a phoney war and a false tenderness towards the UK Parliament. The government has made clear that all substantive changes to EU laws, ranging from a new immigration policy to a new fishing policy, will of course need primary legislation. Parliament can shape and influence that to its heart content, in a way it could never do when the rules were laid down by the EU.

The so called Henry VIII powers, often used to drive through EU matters, will only be used for government to make technical changes to existing EU law to make sure it does still work as UK law! That surely is something the Remain people should like, as presumably they welcome the continuity of much EU law as UK law.

It is a curious feature of the modern debate that the Remain supporters in Parliament want us to talk about nothing but Brexit the whole time, and then complain that we do not debate and vote on it enough. As one who welcomes Parliamentary scrutiny and debate on the use of power I have no problem with Parliament doing this. Parliament does, however, need to have some sense of balance and proportion. We need to complement the many hours of debate and scrutiny of the UK's position on Brexit with proper use of our powers in many other areas, and more debate of the needs and tactics of the rest of the EU.

It is fine for the Opposition to criticise or demand more of the government. It should also be the loyal Opposition, recognising the impact its words may have on the UK's position in the EU talks.