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HONOREE REMARKS TO
THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS
ANNUAL GALA DINNER
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Thank you. I'm delighted to be here tonight and very proud to accept this honor on behalf of Google employees around the world, but especially on behalf of our hundreds of Googlers in Beijing and Shanghai.

It's especially meaningful coming from the National Committee on US-China Relations. This organization and the people in this room tonight have done so much to build the US-China relationship into what it is today: perhaps the most important business and diplomatic partnership in the world.

We are proud to be honored by an organization that puts so much time and effort into bringing Americans and Chinese together through exchange programs and person-to-person contacts.

Commitment to China

We at Google see the Chinese people as great partners and the China market as one of our great opportunities. We are deeply committed to engaging with users, partners, and customers in China for the long term.

Consider the scope of this opportunity. Today 340M people in China -- more than the entire US population -- use the Internet every day to learn, communicate, be entertained, run their businesses, and many other activities. This will only increase, as the hundreds of millions of mobile subscribers in China are starting to use their phones to get online. A lot of them will be in the rural areas, where the government has been working to close the digital gap.

But we have another reason to be excited about China, and that is the tremendous talent and energy we find there. Today, we have three offices in China that employ hundreds of people. We have also developed several very exciting partnerships. For example, we worked with Tsinghua University (a leading science and technology university) to develop the first curricula in China that specializes in cloud computing, and we have awarded four research awards to professors in computer science.

We have also partnered with great companies like Tencent, Sina, China Unicom, Huawei, and ZTE. All with the common goal of bringing great Internet services to Chinese consumers. The great talent, valuable partnerships, and vibrant user base make China a fascinating place to build new products.

For example, last March we launched our first Music Search product exclusively for Chinese users. It's a tremendously innovative service -- you can enter the name of a song, or an artist, or even a bit of the lyrics into Google and it will find you the song.

After running the service in China for several months, we just launched it in the US.

This is just one example of the innovative products we are developing in China. One example of why we are excited to be a part of the Chinese business community.

Preserving the open Internet

Looking forward, I am a technology optimist. I believe in the power of technology to deliver information, and I believe the free flow of information will drive economic growth. If you are a farmer or fisherman or shopkeeper and you don't have access to good market information, middlemen can take advantage of you. You have to accept whatever price they offer.

If you are a student and your school doesn't have a library, your chances of getting into a great university are slimmer. Your horizons are too limited. If you are an entrepreneur without access to the latest technology, you are at a terrible disadvantage. Your plans and your dreams will be fenced in.

A lack of information has been holding back too many people for too many generations.

But that is changing. At Google we foresee a day when people around the world will be able to access the world's information from the palms of their hands. This is the logical conclusion of a process that began more than 1,000 years ago when a Chinese identified as Bi Sheng -- and described in history as a "common artisan" -- invented ceramic movable type.

Back then, access to information was a privilege accorded to only a very few. Today, access to information can at last be a universal right. The Internet makes this possible - it is by far the most powerful information system ever created. And at the heart of its power is the fact that it is an open system that harnesses the intellect of the general population and encourages competition and innovation.

This open system has created an entire industry in just a few years, and will transform many others in coming years. That's why protecting the free and open Internet is vital to its continued success the world over, and is critical to business in China. It is what users expect. It is what businesses expect, especially those accustomed to doing business in other countries.

It is critical to ensuring that China's remarkable economic growth will continue.

The power of information

Before closing, let me again thank the National Committee for honoring Google—and say that in honoring our employees you honor the dreams of Internet users everywhere.

The dreams of a student in the smallest village down an unpaved road in far-off Gansu province who wants the same opportunities as students at the world's greatest universities. The dreams of the farmer and the fisherman in Fujian who want to build a better life for their children. The dreams of people across the huge, diverse and dynamic nation of China who long to engage with each other and with the outside world.

It is this dynamic engagement that will lead to innovation and create new businesses and industries. And this unleashing of ideas that means the next Google is just as likely to be hatched in an apartment in Shanghai or a dorm room in Beijing.... as in a garage in Silicon Valley.

We look forward to working with them!

Thank you.