



17 AUGUST 2018

AG's Lecture 2018
AG's Opening Remarks

Prosecutor General of the People's
Republic of China, His Excellency Zhang Jun;
Minister Counsellor, Zhang Xumin;
Distinguished guests;
Ladies & gentlemen,

1. Good evening, and welcome to the AG's Lecture 2018.
2. It gives me great pleasure to welcome the Prosecutor General of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Zhang Jun, as the distinguished speaker for our Lecture.
3. PG Zhang's presence at this year's Lecture is significant; 2018 marks 30 years of close ties between the prosecutorial agencies of Singapore and China. Since AG Tan Boon Teik's official visit to China in 1988, both countries have maintained close contact, be it through mutual visits of the heads of prosecutorial agencies, or study visits by prosecutors of both countries. Singapore and China prosecutors have also worked closely together in the realm of cross-border crimes. I was delighted to meet PG Zhang earlier this week when we attended the 11th China-ASEAN Prosecutors-General Conference in Brunei Darussalam. I am heartened to learn that this is PG Zhang's first official overseas visit since his appointment in March this year,

and I was especially pleased when PG Zhang kindly accepted my invitation to speak at this Lecture.

4. PG Zhang will be speaking on ***Comprehensive Law-Based Governance: The China Solution***. There is probably no one better placed to speak on this topic. PG Zhang has had an illustrious career in China's legal and political arenas, with many years of experience in various legal and judicial agencies.
5. From 2003 to 2005, PG Zhang was the Deputy Minister of Justice. He was then the Deputy President and Member of the Judicial Committee of the Supreme People's Court, until 2012. From 2012 to 2017, he was the Deputy Party Secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the Communist Party of China. In February 2017, he was appointed the Minister of Justice – a role he held up till being elected the PG of the Supreme People's Procuratorate in March 2018.
6. The topic for this year's Lecture is extremely pertinent. In recent years, China has increasingly emphasized the rule of law in extensive legal and judicial reforms. This has helped to attract foreign investments with China and strengthen institutional stability in China. It will be interesting to hear PG Zhang's views on governance in a country of 1.3 billion people.
7. I have no doubt that we are in for a deeply insightful talk. From my interactions with PG Zhang this week, I know that we are in for a treat later.
8. It remains for me to invite PG Zhang to the stage. PG Zhang, please.