

Religions in the New Silk Road (OBOR)

“Religions in OBOR” (RIO) is a new international research programme 2018-2022. The starting conference was held at the Academy of Religions at the well-known Minzu (Minorities) University in Beijing on 31 May and 1 June 2018 with Chinese and International Scholars.

Religions play an important role in the countries of the “One Belt One Road” (OBOR), the Initiative of China. OBOR unites over 63 countries from Indonesia East, South and Central Asia to Middle East, Europe and East Africa. All world religions (Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism, Shintoism etc.) and many minority religions are present and influence in different ways business, economy, social and public life.

25 Scholars from China, Lebanon, Ethiopia, USA and Switzerland represented many disciplines such as social science, minority studies, sociology of religions, economy, business ethics, theology in order to define and launch the programme.

The five-year international research programme (2018-2022) has three goals: Researching on the contribution of religions for sustainable, harmonious and peaceful (business) relations between OBOR countries, 2. Increasing knowledge, mutual respect and cooperation through research and dialogue and 3. Informing governments, business and media (in China and OBOR countries) on the impact of religion on OBOR’s success. The project will cooperate with high quality researchers and academic institutions in OBOR countries and around the globe.

The conference was organised by the Academy of Religion at Minzu University in Beijing in cooperation with the Geneva Agape Foundation in Switzerland, a Chinese initiative for international academic cooperation based in Geneva/Switzerland.

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