

International co-operation between Poland and Spain, within the International Society for Knowledge Organization: present situation and prospects

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Abstract

The International Society for Knowledge Organization provides an excellent forum for co-operation in scientific information among scholars. Such co-operation already exists between national chapters of ISKO in Poland and Spain. It is visible e.g. in mutual participation of ISKO members in national conferences held in Spain and Poland and strengthened by individual contacts. My purpose is to present the achievements of current co-operation in that area, inspired by membership in ISKO, and mention potential possibilities of further development. The ISKO anniversary in Spain is a great opportunity to consider further expansion. Collaboration between Polish and Spanish ISKO members is possible on the grounds of the research field of scientific information, and of knowledge organization in particular, as well as in specific areas of research and ISKO members' participation in joint international research projects. Teaching and mobility can provide other dimensions of co-operation between researchers taking part in post-graduate studies and lecturing, expanded by internships for the students of scientific information and library science under international programmes, including those supported by the European Union. New possibilities of co-operation will appear mainly in the context of the implementation of the information and knowledge society conception in Poland and Spain. That option will be associated with the ISKO's Spanish members' participation in the ISKO anniversary celebrations in Poland and the international ISKO conference to be held in Kraków in 2014.

Keywords: ISKO in Poland, ISKO Members, Polish-Spanish Co-operation, ISKO Members Publications, ISKO PL Organization.

1. PREFACE

The International Society for Knowledge Organization provides an excellent forum for co-operation in scientific information among scholars. Such co-operation already exists between national chapters of ISKO in Poland and Spain. It is visible e.g. in mutual participation of ISKO members in international and national conferences held in Spain and Poland and strengthened by individual contacts.

My purpose is to present the achievements of current co-operation in that area, inspired by membership in ISKO, and mention potential possibilities of further development. The ISKO anniversary in Spain is a great opportunity to consider our further expansion.

2. ISKO IN POLAND (1989-2010): HISTORY

From the very beginning of ISKO, professor Eugeniusz Ścibor (1929-2003) and editor Zygmunt Stoberski (1916-2006) were among its honorary members. Professor Ścibor was also an actual member of the Editorial Board (as the Consulting Editor) of the *Knowledge Organization* (1989-1996) (Ścibor, 1992). Real activity of ISKO in Poland was initiated by the First European ISKO Conference (14-16 September 1994, Bratislava, Slovakia). The conference was organized by The National Slovak ISKO Chapter, the ISKO General Secretariat and the Infoterm Vienna, in cooperation with The International Society for Knowledge Organization. The following participants came from Poland: Ewa Chmielewska-Gorczyca, Ph.D. (Library and Information Science Institute (LIS), Warsaw University), Professor Henryk Rybiński (Faculty of Electronics, Warsaw University of Technology), Sylwia Ramotowska (Institute of Environmental Protection in Warsaw) and Krystyna Siwek (The Information Processing Centre in Warsaw). During the conference, the President of ISKO (1989-1996) Ingetraut Dahlberg, Ph.D., invited Polish participants to ISKO and suggested establishing a Polish Chapter and organizing a Polish national ISKO conference. Such a conference was in fact organized in 1995 under the title of *Compatibility and Integration of Order Systems* (Research Seminar of the TIP/ISKO Meeting Warsaw, 13-15 September 1995). Papers from that conference were published in (Dahlberg; Siwek, 1996). It was organized in cooperation with the Society for Professional Information (SPI) and The Polish Librarians' Association, gathering about 60 participants. They included guests from Germany (Dr. Ingetraut Dahlberg, Dr. Stephan Hoppe, Wiltrud Hoppe, Horst G. Körner, Dr. Helmut Lockenhoff, Dr. Winfried Schmitz-Esser, Prof. Harold Zimmermann), France (Daniele Degez-Vataire), Great Britain (Stella G. Dextre Clarke), Italy (Dr. Giliola Negrini), Holland (Dr. Gerhard Riesthuis), Belgium (Dr. Courentin Roulin), USA (Prof. Dagobert Soergel), Czech Republic (Dr. Tomáš Samek) and Slovakia (Dr. Pavla Stanciková).

3. ORGANIZATION

Apart from the four participants of the conference in Bratislava, 6 other Polish scientists declared membership in ISKO before the Warsaw conference mentioned above: Wiesław Babik, Ph.D. (Polish Academy of Sciences, The Centre for Scientific Information in Kraków), Lucyna A. Bielicka (Institute for Scientific Technical and Economic Information in Warsaw), Katarzyna Materska, Ph.D. (LIS Institute, Warsaw University), Professor Mieczysław Muraszewicz (LIS Institute, Warsaw University), Barbara Sosińska-Kalata, Ph.D. (LIS Institute, Warsaw University) and Jadwiga Woźniak, Ph.D. (LIS Institute, Warsaw University). Wiesław Gliński (LIS Institute, Warsaw University) and Paweł Gierycz (The Information Processing Centre in Warsaw) became our members later. In the years 1994-2005, we had 13 members (11 individual + 2 honorary) of ISKO in Poland (including 10 from Warsaw and 1 from Kraków) and 2 member organizations i.e. institutional members: The Society for Professional Information (TIP) and the Institute of Environmental Protection in Warsaw (IOS).

In the beginning of 1995, Krystyna Siwek (The Information Processing Centre in Warsaw) became the national ISKO Coordinator in Poland. The Polish members of ISKO took part in several international and national ISKO conferences: 1990 – Darmstadt (Germany), 1994 – Bratislava (Slovakia), 1998 – Lille (France), 2006 – Vienna (Austria) (Babik, 2006b), 2008 – Montreal (Canada), 2009 – Valencia (Spain). But except for the ISKO Seminar in Warsaw in 1995, no other meetings were organized in Poland until recently. However, the Polish members of ISKO met regularly during other scientific and professional conferences and meetings in Poland.

In May 2006, a new Polish Coordinator was elected: Professor Wiesław Babik from the Institute of Information and Library Science of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków (Babik, 2006a). In the same year, the Polish ISKO members were verified and some actions to attract new members were undertaken. At the end of 2006, the number of ISKO members in Poland increased significantly to 23 (including 9 original members). Officially, the National ISKO Chapter in Poland started at the beginning of 2007. Three local chapters were also established: in Warsaw (10 members), Kraków (8 members) and Katowice (5 members). Those local chapters are connected with three LIS Institutes, which are the best academic institutions in Poland, offering studies for librarians and information professionals. By the end of 2011, the number of ISKO members in Poland will probably grow to about 50.

Current activities of the National ISKO Chapter in Poland are based at the Department of Information Management headed by Professor Babik and existing within the Institute of Information and Library Science of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. Our ISKO members are located in four centers: Warsaw, Kraków, Katowice and Olsztyn. We intend to open another centre in Toruń. That is an original organizational system of our National Chapter that inspires our ISKO members to develop local activities (Babik; Sapa, 2008).

4. PRESENT-DAY ACTIVITIES

The programme of the Polish ISKO (2006-2012) specifies the following directions of ISKO activities in Poland:

1. Promotion of ISKO in Polish scientific periodicals to enlarge membership.
2. Development of the "ISKO in Poland" website (a page on the Institute's website) by students, with links to other educational institutions and professional societies.
3. Organization of an international ISKO conference in Kraków in 2014.
4. Promotion of the *Knowledge Organization*, with publication of articles by Polish scholars.
5. Regular development of Polish literature on the Knowledge Organization by placement of publications in the "KO Literature".
6. Preparation of relevant information for the ISKO News.
7. Collaboration between the Polish ISKO and The Polish Librarians' Association, The Polish Society of Scientific Information, The International Specialized Terminology Organization, etc.
8. Development of an information centre for information-terminology-knowledge organization and management, with a special collection of ISKO books and periodicals (as a deposit of the Polish ISKO) at the Department of Information Management, Institute of Information and Library Sciences, Jagiellonian University (Kraków).
9. Promotion of research activities in the theory and practice of terminology-information-knowledge organization and management (Babik, 2008).

In addition, the Polish ISKO plans to disseminate the ISKO ideas in the Polish journals dedicated to scientific information and library science, as well as to open a discussion list on the subject. Presently, the most important forum of mutual contacts between the members is the Internet, which allows us to develop a specific virtual community. The community is bound by the distribution of irregular e-mails with the *ISKO in Poland News* on the activities conducted by the ISKO Coordinators in Poland.

So far, ISKO PL has organized following conferences:

- Warsaw 13-15 September 1995: Research Seminar of the TIP/ISKO Meeting "Compatibility and Integration of Order Systems".
- 25-28 September 2007: National ISKO Chapter PL organized (within The 9th Forum of the Polish Society for Scientific Information in Zakopane) the session entitled "*The role of knowledge organization in information exchange and development of professional information services for education, science and culture for the knowledge society*". Papers from that session were published in (Pietruch-Reizes; Babik, 2008).

- 22-25 September 2009: National ISKO Chapter PL organized (within The 10th Forum of the Polish Society for Scientific Information in Zakopane) the session entitled “*ISKO Is Providing Safe, Innovative and Accessible Information. Perspectives of the Information Industry in the Knowledge Society*”. Papers from that session will be published in 2011 in The 10th Forum's proceedings.

The activities of ISKO PL are concentrated in its local chapters. It means that we think globally but act locally, in accordance with the previously defined annual plans, for example the ISKO PL local chapter in Katowice organized a panel discussion entitled “*What is knowledge organization*” (June 2007). A similar panel was organized by the local chapter in Kraków.

Information on ISKO PL's activities has been published in two renowned Polish scientific journals: *Zagadnienia Informacji Naukowej* and *Praktyka i Teoria Informacji Naukowej i Technicznej*. What is more, the ISKO PL websites have been designed and implemented. We are working on preparing separate websites for each Polish local chapter, which will form a kind of ISKO PL webring.

At present, the Internet is the most important communication forum for the Polish ISKO members. We are developing a certain virtual community, which is integrated by irregular, electronic bulletin *ISKO in Poland News*, issued twice a year (spring – winter), informing on the activities undertaken by the Polish National Coordinator, his co-operation with the ISKO Executive Board and the present situation of ISKO in Poland.

5. PUBLICATIONS BY THE ISKO PL MEMBERS

Scholarly, organizational and publishing activities of our ISKO members can be made available in Spain. The following are the selected book publications:

- Babik, Wiesław (2010): *Słowa kluczowe* (Keywords). Kraków: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, 2010, 241 pp.
- Osińska, Veslava (2010): *Wizualizacja i wyszukiwanie dokumentów* (Visualisation vs. Document's Searching). Warszawa: Wydawnictwo SBP, 175 pp.
- Batorowska, Hanna (2009): *Kultura informacyjna w perspektywie zmian w edukacji* (Information Culture in the Light of Changes in Education). Warszawa: Wydawnictwo SBP, 544 pp.
- Luterek, Mariusz (2009): *E-government. Systemy informacji publicznej* (E-government. Public Information Systems). Warszawa: Wydawnictwa Akademickie i Profesjonalne, 198 pp.
- Sapa, Remigiusz (2009): *Metodologia badań obszaru pośredniczenia w komunikacji naukowej z perspektywy nauki o informacji* (The Methodology of Research in the Area of Mediation in Scholarly Communication from the Perspective of Information Science). Kraków: Wydawnictwo UJ, 210 pp.

- Krakowska, Monika (2008): *Nowe formy komunikacji społecznej w europejskiej przestrzeni edukacyjnej* (New Forms of Social Information in the European Educational Area). Kraków: Wydawnictwo UJ, 186 pp.
- Jaskowska, Małgorzata (2007): *Public Relations bibliotek naukowych w Internecie* (Public Relations of Research Libraries in the Internet). Kraków: Wydawnictwo UJ, 225 pp.
- Materska, Katarzyna (2007): *Informacja w organizacjach społeczeństwa wiedzy* (Information on the Knowledge-Based Organizations). Warszawa: Wydawnictwo SBP, 406 pp.
- Korycińska-Huras, Agnieszka (2006): *Informacyjny kontekst komunikacji literackiej* (Informational Context of Literary Communication). Kraków: Wydawnictwo UJ, 150 pp.
- Świgoń, Marzena (2006): *Bariery informacyjne. Podstawy teoretyczne i próba badań w środowisku naukowym* (Information Barriers. Theoretical Foundations and Test Research in the Scientific Circles). Warszawa: Wydawnictwo SBP, 221 pp.
- Narojczyk, Krzysztof (2005): *Dokument elektroniczny i jego opis bibliograficzny w publikacjach humanistycznych* (An Electronic Document and its Bibliographic Description in Humanistic Publications). Olsztyn: Wydawnictwo UWM, 199 pp.
- Pietruch-Reizes, Diana (2005): *Biblioteka i informacja w systemie parlamentarnym Unii Europejskiej i Rady Europy* (The Library and Information in the Parliamentary System of EU and the Council of Europe). Katowice: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego.
- Sapa, Remigiusz (2005): *Benchmarking w doskonaleniu serwisów WWW bibliotek akademickich* (Benchmarking for Improving Academic Library Web Sites). Kraków: Wydawnictwo UJ 2005, 181 pp.
- Próchnicka, Maria (2004): *Człowiek i komputer: Dialogowy model wyszukiwania informacji* (Human and Computer: A Dialog Model of Information Retrieval). Kraków: Wydawnictwo UJ, 186 pp.
- Cisek, Sabina (2002): *Filozoficzne aspekty informacji naukowej* (Philosophical Aspects of Information Science). Kraków: Wydawnictwo UJ, 142 pp.
- Sosińska-Kalata, Barbara (2002): *Klasyfikacja. Struktury organizacji wiedzy, piśmiennictwa i zasobów informacyjnych* (Classification. Structures of the Organization of Knowledge, Literature and Information Resources). Warszawa: Wydawnictwo SBP, 262 pp.
- Woźniak, Jadwiga (2000): *Kategoryzacja. Studium z teorii języków informacyjno-wyszukiwawczych* (Categorization. A study in the Theory of Indexing Languages). Warszawa: Wydawnictwo SBP, 224 pp.

- Sosińska-Kalata, Barbara (1999): *Modele organizacji wiedzy w systemach wyszukiwania informacji o dokumentach* (Models of Knowledge Organization in Documentary Information Retrieval Systems). Warszawa: Wydawnictwo SBP, 388 pp.
- Ścibor, Eugeniusz (1999): *Wybrane zagadnienia teorii języków informacyjnych* (Selected Problems of Information Retrieval Languages). Olsztyn: Wyższa Szkoła Pedagogiczna, 166 pp.

6. FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

ISKO PL aims at the following:

- To develop co-operation with The Polish Librarians' Association, The Polish Society for Scientific Information and The International Specialized Terminology Organization, as well as other professional organizations operating in the field of knowledge organization.
- To initiate co-operation with national ISKO chapters in the neighbouring countries (Russia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Germany).
- To inspire new research topics in the field of information and knowledge organization and management (first of all, collective research by ISKO members).
- To organize or at least participate in conferences or other scholarly meetings in 2011 in Poland.
- To organize the ISKO International Conference in Kraków in 2014.

Our plans for the nearest future include completing and updating information on ISKO PL on the official ISKO website, supplementing the ISKO boards with Polish representatives, creating new local chapters, participating in national and international ISKO conferences, organizing (in co-operation with The Polish Society for Scientific Information, PSSI) a regional/national ISKO PL research seminar in 2011 on “Man in Information Space” (within The 11th Forum of PSSI in Zakopane – International Research Seminar of the PSSI/ISKO Meeting) and the International ISKO Conference in Kraków in 2014.

Furthermore, there are plans to promote regularly the idea of ISKO in the Polish scholarly journals for information science, library science and librarianship and to set up an appropriate mailing list.

In 2014, ISKO PL will celebrate its 25th Anniversary. Our Jubilee celebrations will be associated with organization of an international conference in Kraków, and we wish to invite you to participate now.

7. STATE OF THE ART OF POLISH-SPANISH CO-OPERATION

Our contacts with the ISKO Spain members started in the early 2000's, although no Spanish name can be found on the attached list of the ISKO PL Conference participants, taking place in Warsaw on 13-15 September 1995. We met, however, at the international ISKO conference in Vienna, where I represented ISKO PL and Spain was represented by Ricardo Eito Brun (Carlos III University of Madrid), María J. López-Huertas (University of Granada), Francisco Javier García Marco (University of Zaragoza), Blanca Rodríguez Bravo (University of León), Rosa San Segundo Manuel (Carlos III University of Madrid) and Emilia Currás Puente (Autonomous University of Madrid). Our contacts increased when María J. López-Huertas became the ISKO President. Another important stage of Polish-Spanish contacts involved the international ISKO conference in Montreal in 2008 and the ISKO Spain conference in Valencia on 11-13 March 2009, with a large group of the ISKO PL members. Those papers were published in (Lloret, 2009). The following read their papers there:

Wiesław Babik: *Multi-cultural Problems in Knowledge Organization and Dissemination for Information Indexing and Retrieval*;

Anna Sitarska: *Introduction to the Polish Packet of Contribution "On the Land Close to Our Hearts..." or on the Ways and Forms of Access to Knowledge on the Polish Region Podlasie*;

Jadwiga Nowacka: *Traditions and Literary Inspirations in the Local Activities of Maria Konopnicka Public Library in Suwałki: Universal Values as an Effective Knowledge Medium and Building Block of Local Consciousness*;

Katarzyna Zimoch: *The Influence of ITC Facilities on Access to the Historic Sources and Knowledge on Cultural Heritage*;

Jan Leończuk: *The Publishing Role of Książnica Podlaska in Białystok in Popularising the Knowledge on "A Little Homeland"*;

Anna Nosek: *Poems for Children as a Means of Conveying Knowledge about the Region*;

Franciszek Kobryńczuk, Zofia Olek-Redlarska and Barbara Kuprel: *The Poems of Childhood... "As the Way to get Acquainted and Treasure One's Region, Based on the Example of Co-operation of Poets with the City Public Library in Mońki"*;

Veslava Osińska and Piotr Bała: *Non-linear Approach in Classification, Visualization and Evaluation*.

Another participant was Anna Kawalec, a graduate from the Institute of Information and Library Science of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. To increase our contacts, we invited, among others, the following ISKO foreign members to our ISKO PL Conference in Zakopane in 2009, not to mention the then ISKO President, Maria J. López-Huertas (University of Granada):

Rosa San Segundo Manuel (President of ISKO Spain, Carlos III University of Madrid): *Accessible Information in the Knowledge Society*;

H. Peter Ohly (GESIS: Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Bonn, Germany; ISKO General Secretary): *Dynamics and Stability in Multilevel Thematic Networks*;

C.S. de Beer (Department of Information Science, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa): *The Troubadour of Knowledge. A Knowledge Worker for the New Knowledge Age*.

8. PROSPECTS OF COLLABORATION

Collaboration between Polish and Spanish ISKO members is possible on the grounds of the research field of scientific information, and of knowledge organization in particular, as well as specific areas of research, and ISKO members' participation in joint international research projects. Teaching and mobility can provide other dimensions of co-operation between researchers, taking part in post-graduate studies and lecturing, expanded by internships for the students of scientific information and library science under international programmes, including those supported by the European Union.

New possibilities of co-operation will appear mainly in the context of the implementation of the information and knowledge society conception in Poland and Spain. That option will be associated with the ISKO's Spanish members' participation in the ISKO 25-anniversary celebrations in Poland and the international ISKO conference to be held in Kraków in 2014.

The development of Polish-Spanish co-operation within ISKO may be extended by creating possibilities of lecturer exchange in the form of guest lectures conducted by our ISKO members and doing research on the information and library science, respectively in Spanish and Polish universities. I would also like to point out a possibility of joint research and implementation of new research projects in those areas under bilateral co-operation agreements concluded between Poland and Spain. It will also be possible to apply for international grants and participate in EU framework programmes. Programmes Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development (IEF) and Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development (IOF) are recommendable too.

There is another option of creating an Internet platform/forum/blog to exchange information, texts and ideas, as well as research results. That is why I mentioned an offer of Polish books published by the ISKO PL members. Another valuable initiative includes mutual assistance of educational centres in Poland and Spain, within European Union. In that field, we could e.g. review mutually Ph.D. dissertations written in our countries, or scholarly promotions. Further options include post-graduate studies and Visiting Professor posts. It is also highly recommended to participate in scientific conferences and meetings, exchange our students and carry out student internships under the SOCRATES ERASMUS Programme, which in fact is a reality now.

As to our participation in scientific conferences, the following would be recommended:

- The international ISKO conference to be organized in Kraków in 2014;
- The National INT Forum in Zakopane in 2011, 2013 and later. As part of that Forum, ISKO PL will hold an ISKO session, with the participation of foreign guests;
- Conference to be co-organized by ISKO PL and ISKO Germany in Cottbus in 2011 [<http://www.isko-de.org/?id=wissensorganisation11>] and probably in Frankfurt/Oder in 2013;
- Annual conferences organized by the Institute of Information and Library Science of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków and other academic centres involved in librarian and information specialist education in Poland, in particular in Warsaw, Katowice, Wrocław, Toruń and Kielce, as well as scientific libraries belonging mainly to public and non-public universities, and The Polish Librarians' Association.

It is worth mentioning that the Institute of Library and Information Science of the Silesian University in Katowice holds conferences on “Scientific Information Management” every two years in December, while the Institute of Scientific Information and Library Science of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków holds its annual international conferences in June.

Research on information and library science conducted in the Kraków's Institute is of humanistic, interdisciplinary and international nature. Its considerable proportion concerns the possibilities of application of electronic means of transmission in the library and scientific information centre operation, serving the facilitation and acceleration of communication in society. Research conducted by the Kraków's Institute entail the following fields: scientific and social information, including information ecology, information management in science, libraries and library users in social environments, information culture, affective information behaviour, mental models of digital library users, scientific information quality, archival information and its users, and the theoretical and methodological foundations of science in information; Library, Book and Information in Social Communication Processes, including Books in electronic environments and social communication, Polish immigrant and Polish libraries abroad in the social communication processes, and publication movement in Kraków; Library Science, including education in scientific information and library science, in the prospects of the European and National Qualifications Frameworks, and private libraries; and Present-day Library Science in Public Communication.

Since 1995, our Institute organizes annual, local and international conferences, with large foreign participation, dedicated to the strategy of library and scientific information development and methodological and teaching issues. Our meetings are by videoconferences

organized jointly with the US Consulate General in Kraków. Our Institute co-operates with a number of such national and foreign organizations, also within European and national projects, as: COINE, ECOTEC, e-TEN EURIDICE, EMPATIC, or PASSIM-SYNAT. The results of our co-operation include joint research, mobility, conferences and publications. On 6-7 June 2011, our Institute will hold an international scientific and educational conference on “How to Educate the Students of Information and Library Science (INIB)? Curricula, Job Markets and Scholarly Development”.

The students of the Institute of Scientific Information and Library Science in Kraków participate in mobility projects under the SOCRATES ERASMUS Programme, travelling to such countries as Finland, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia, the United Kingdom, Germany, Portugal, Sweden or Turkey. Presently, they can also travel to two Spanish centers:

- Madrid: Carlos III University of Madrid;
- Valencia: Technical University of Valencia.

And the list may the University of A Coruña extended.

Soon, the Kraków's Institute will hold the conference on “How to Educate the Students of Information and Library Science (INIB)? Curricula, Job Markets and Scholarly Development” [<http://konferencjainib2011.blogspot.com/>] and The 11th National Forum of Scientific and Technical Information in Zakopane on “People in Information Space” [<http://www.ptin.org.pl/>]. And I would like to invite our Spanish colleagues to participate too.

9. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

When looking at the Polish-Spanish collaboration in the period under discussion, we could say that it was rather modest. Therefore, we are facing new challenges, mainly in the context of our countries' EU membership and our implementation of the information society conception. I am convinced that realistic conditions exist for the development of our collaboration in research, teaching and study areas. It is easy to notice that our co-operation has not fully developed yet. In a global perspective, the development needs of the study of information and its specialties, research and teaching personnel exchange between the interested scientific information and library research institutions, as well as the exchange and use of the works published by such institutions can become proper catalyst of our co-operation. It is also possible to review mutually our studies before and after publication and establish various research teams and projects designed for resolving specific research problems on a national or global scale. The co-operation between the research workers in both countries may result not only in mutual learning of each other but also learning of the fascinating histories and cultures of both countries. It will depend entirely on us whether we use such opportunities.

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