

# CURRICULUM VITAE ZHANG XINSHENG

## **Personal**

Name: Zhang Xinsheng  
Date of Birth: 8 November 1948  
Nationality: Citizen of China

## **Education**

Mr Zhang received a Master in Design Studies with distinction at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University. He also completed the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School, and was later

## **Offices and membership of governing bodies**

In addition to the positions mentioned above, Mr Zhang was the first person from China to be invited to join the Harvard Business School Board of Directors of Associates. He was also Chairperson of the Board of Directors for Sino-Singapore SIP Development Consortium.

During his stewardship of the Executive Board of UNESCO, Mr Zhang was well-respected and known for his leadership ability and his ability to create an inclusive consensus. The *Tribute to Chairperson of the Executive Board* written by the General Conference 34<sup>th</sup> Session reads: “*The General Conference [commends Mr Zhang’s] intellectual and human qualities which enabled him to build consensus through extensive consultations.*” Former Director-General of UNESCO Matsuura’s letter to China’s top leaders praises “*Mr Zhang’s steadfast quest for harmony and consensus, which has enabled Board Members to reach agreement on many complex issues...the Board has taken 226 decisions...Every one of them was adopted by consensus... [This] great achievement...was largely due to the wise handling of the debates of the Executive Board by Mr Zhang.*”

## **Other activities**

He was a member of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development and Vice President of the Chinese Olympic Committee. He was also elected as Deputy to the 7th and 8th National People’s Congress of China.

## **Awards**

Mr Zhang has been awarded Doctorates *honoris causa* by universities in the United States, Russia, Australia, Hong Kong and Japan.

## **Vision for the future priorities and development of the Union**

It is critical for a new IUCN leader to be a good listener to the members of the Union, with deep understanding of the issues that are of significance, without pre-set judgment or bias. IUCN leaders must build up consensus, preserving past traditions and success while changing to meet new challenges. Thus

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