



Boao Forum for Asia, Annual Conference 2016

Session Summary (No.11)

Boao Forum for Asia Institute

March 22, 2016

TV Debate 2

Young Leaders Roundtable: Redefining distance

Time: 19:45-21:15, March 22, 2016

Venue: ICC, Level 1, Dongyu Grand Ballroom D

Moderator:

LI Sixuan, Bilingual Host and Journalist, CCTV Financial Channel

Special Guests:

Aziz, Former Prime Minister, Pakistan

RAO Yi, Professor, Peking University

Panelists:

- Arif MohdHadi Mir Ahmad AMIRI, CEO, Dubai Financial Services Authority
- JING Xiandong, President, Ant Financial
- JIN Dongyuan, General Manager, Hanwha Life Insurance Internet Finance and Innovation Center
- Jessica LESSIN, Founder and CEO, The Information
- LUO Lili, Founder and President, TriBeluga
- Benedikt SOBOTKA, CEO, Eurasian Natural Resources
- TONG Dawei, Founder, T&G Entertainment & Shanghai T&G Investment Management Center
- Sophie WATTS, President, STX Entertainment
- WANG Xiaochuan, CEO, Sogou



- ZHAO Hejuan, Founder, TMT Post

Key Points:

- Technology shortens distance.
- Technology increases the efficiency of work and communication, etc.
- Technology can't replace face-to-face communication.
- Technology has its both advantages and disadvantages
- We should find the balance between technology development and distance.

Synopsis:

New technology shortens distance

RAO Yi said that technology shortens people's distance. For example, if he is attending the meeting or having an interview here and his colleague is attending a conference in Shenzhen, he can discuss with them watching the PPT on his telephone; besides, he can also inform his laboratory students to find a science thesis and send it to an American expert. These are all conveniences brought by technology. We can complete most things through E-mail, which can raise the efficiency and save time for people we like; thus, there will be more quality time for us.

WANG Xiaochuan expressed that technology can bring people more information and also help make choices for them. The present technology, especially the artificial intelligence represented by search engines, can help us screen information. But some people think that technology lengthens the distance between people. They actually undervalue the power of technology. Technology will always move forward. For instance, technology has already enabled us from making calls to watching videos. Some people say that technology can't replace



face-to-face communication, but I think that when technology develops to a certain degree, it will strengthen our face-to-face communication and make our relationship more intimate.

Benedikt SOBOTKA took the artificial intelligence as an example. He said that as machines are able to translate languages, he can communicate in any language if he has such a machine in hand. Therefore, though we talk in different languages, we can still communicate with each other. In this sense, it shortens distance between people and also different countries.

Jessica LESSIN held the view that virtual reality technology can enrich our life and help us understand the life better.

New technology lengthens the distance

ZHAO Lijuan believed that technology is helping technophobic people because technology's iteration speed has surpassed people's learning speed of a complex technology. It's the convenience brought by simplification. However, a new problem appears. Though technology can help us solve many problems, make decisions and raise communication efficiency between people, it can seldom reach our soul and will actually make us feel lonelier. For instance, his lover has been working in Pakistan for five years; they can communicate through video, but it can't change the fact that they can't fly to each other's city or have a face-to-face communication."

Sophie WATTS said that she was trying to design a program on how technology changes the relationship between people, namely whether



technology can better connect people. We can take telephone as an example. For her, she can't do without telephone; but she still thinks we should put it down and have a face-to-face conversation so that we can be better and people with rich emotions. We are human beings and we need communications with people instead of machines.”

TONG Dawei thought that people's face-to-face communication has declined. But there's no tactile sense in WeChat messages and video chatting. If there's no tactile touch between his child and him, they can hardly remember it. Therefore, he's a bit worried that if upgraded VR technology can produce tactile sense, whether people's close contact will be replaced by technology.

Arif MohdHadi Mir Ahmad AMIRI believed that technology can't replace our face-to-face contact, such as our quality time spent with our family members. Wherever we are, we will always hope to have intimate touch and hugs with family member. However, it can't be replaced by any technology.

LUO Lili said that we use technology everyday. It can enhance our working efficiency and information precision, but it's not all about life. It will reduce face-to-face conversation and eye contact, etc. He thinks that the presence of technology increases the distance between people.”

We should find the balance between new technology and distance

Aziz believed that life is in balance and there's no single ideal way that can solve all problems. Whatever technology will have its two sides: one is to bring more convenience, fun, information choices and more



importantly the power, which brings plentiful benefits for people like him who doesn't know technologies at all; the other is that technology has also produced something we don't need and we should screen these out. He suggests that people shouldn't abuse technology, but instead we should take its advantages, use it wisely and find a balance in life."

JJING Xiandong pointed out that in three to five years, the technology of big data inquiry will change the distance between people and people, people and commerce as well as people and services. Nowadays, the credit system develops rapidly. Big data inquiry depicts people's credit image in more dimensions and helps us better understand each other. Technology itself is neutral. We should take advantage of technology to serve human beings and make our life better. He believed that everyone including himself should stick to the base line of values. Technology can help us improve life but can also destroy our life, thus we should all have our base lines.

JIN Dongyuan said that the core of relationship between people would not change. But we should find a balance and know what is most important to human beings. As far as he's concerned, in office he will check his E-mail box and use all sorts of apps including WeChat to communicate with people. But for human beings, face-to-face contact is very important because life is not only about speed and efficiency. For work, efficiency is very important, but life is not all about efficiency. Life has many aspects. In this sense, he likes the convenience brought by technology, but he also hopes to stay with his family members. He thinks that technology just provides us with more options.