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In Memory of My Dear Friend, Mr. Wang Jun

With the saddest and heaviest heart, I bid farewell to my dear friend, Mr. Wang Jun. Life is full of ups and downs, twists and turns. And there comes a time when we have to say goodbye. As a Chinese saying goes, the biggest tragedy in life is the loss of one's family, the second being the loss of a life-long friend. Mr. Wang Jun had always been like a brother, a close friend and most of all a mentor to me. He was always there to guide me and push me forward. It was truly an honour to have known him and to have gone through different stages of our lives with mutual understanding, inspiration and encouragement. Every time I close my eyes, these memories flash through my mind as if it was only yesterday.

When I first set foot on the beautiful land of China more than 30 years ago, I was moved by the hospitality, dedication and sincerity of the Chinese people. Not only was it a privilege to witness the swift emergence of China and countless Chinese "miracles", I was fortunate enough to develop friendships with many of the country's outstanding entrepreneurs. They are generous and trustworthy, these amazing leaders were determined with long-term visions. One of the most influential people to me was none other than my dear friend, Mr. Wang Jun, who I'd like to address as "Wang Laoban" (Wang the Boss) and in my mind, he is well-deserved for this title. He has been a combination of strong responsibilities and glorious accomplishments, and yet never stopped dreaming.

I still remember the first time I met Wang Laoban, I was deeply impressed with his vigilance, wisdom and steadfast vision. It is wonderful how different people come into our lives – some quickly get out of our minds, while others stay and leave footprints on our hearts. Wang Laoban and I were definitely the latter. It was business that first brought us together. We traveled the world together to meet politicians and leaders of different countries, discussing on cooperation projects and business development. Our communications had soon gone beyond business to anything that family and friends would share.



**Robert Friedland (1st from left), Hans So (2nd from left), Wang Jun (middle) with Kuwait Oil Minister (2nd from right) His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Al-Sabah in Vienna, Austria
(December 12, 2002)**



**CITIC Chairman Wang Jun, Robert Friedland with His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Dubai of United Arab Emirates
(December 15, 2002)**



**Robert Friedland, Wang Jun with Shao Qiwei, Vice Governor of Yunnan Province
(December 7, 2002)**



**Wang Jun, CITIC Chairman (left), Chen Geng, Chairman, PetroChina Company Limited (2nd from left), Zeng Xingqiu, Chief-Geologist, Sinochem Corporation (2nd from right) & Robert Friedland (right) at CCBC 25th Anniversary Gala
(October 22, 2003)**

Wang Laoban took good care of my son Govind when he was living in Beijing for more than 10 years. I remember once Wang Laoban gave Govind a hug after he presented a set of S-yard golf clubs to express his gratitude. We found out later that Wang Laoban rarely showed his affection in public and that was probably the first time he had ever hugged a foreign friend. Govind and I were genuinely touched. The past is gone, but moments like this will stay with us forever.

During the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), I traveled all the way from Canada to Beijing just to check on Wang Laoban. We had lunch on the 8th floor of the Capital Mansion, where he said to me, “You are the only friend from overseas who visits me during this difficult time”. Soon after, a staff member working in the building was diagnosed with SARS. Wang Laoban had to be quarantined along with other staff as a result.

Our short meeting during this historic period has become a favourite story of ours and an unforgettable memory imprinted in our hearts.

I miss the time when we cheered for the China team during the Korea-Japan World Cup live and when we laughed together while hunting in Spain. Time is like a phonograph, with endless joy to hear and endless sorrows to share. We might be coming from different countries and backgrounds, but when it comes to business we shared the same goals and visions. With great powers come great responsibilities. Wang Laoban and I were both striving to build an empire with our own hands, for the benefits of our people.



Wang Jun, Chairman of CITIC (left) and Robert Friedland, Deputy Chairman of Ivanhoe Energy (right) at the CITIC & IE Press Conference (October 18, 2002)



VP and Chief Representative China of Ivanhoe Mines, Zhou Chao (left), President of CITIC Metal, Sun Yufeng (2nd from left), Chairman of Ivanhoe Mines Robert Friedland (2nd from right) and VP of CITIC Metal, Mamanfu (right) at Signing Ceremony (April 25, 2019)

With our continuous concerted efforts, the CITIC Group under Wang Laoban's leadership and Ivanhoe led by myself entered into a strategic partnership agreement in Beijing in 2002. Unfortunately, this strategic alliance did not yield fruitful results during Wang Laoban's tenure.

We are very pleased that CITIC Metal, a tier-one subsidiary of CITIC Group, has made two strategic investments in Ivanhoe Mines in less than a year. CITIC Metal is now the single largest shareholder of Ivanhoe Mines, with a total investment of over US\$1 billion. As the Chinese saying goes, never give up and someday your voices will be heard. I look forward to working closely with Wang Laoban's CITIC Group to build a brighter future and make our dreams come true. The marriage with CITIC Metal is a representation of my deep friendship with Wang Laoban and the results of the strategic alliance between Ivanhoe and CITIC during the past 16 years. It is truly an honour for us to form an alliance with CITIC, a renowned state-owned enterprise of China. None of these would have happened if it was not

for Wang Laoban's innovation and openness in natural resources development and his forward-looking visions, for which I am forever grateful for.

Looking ahead, Ivanhoe Mines is planning to name one of its mines "Wang Jun", as an appreciation and sincere thoughts from all of us at Ivanhoe. We will continue to uphold Wang Laoban's proactive and courageous approach as we further develop our business with members of CITIC. Through outstanding pragmatic cooperation and international best practices, we are confident that Ivanhoe and CITIC will achieve the initial shared vision of Wang Laoban and myself – developing Ivanhoe Mines to benefit the people of China, Congo, South Africa and Canada.

As a Chinese poem says, "A time will come to ride the wind and cleave the waves; I'll set my cloud-white sail and cross the sea which raves". Ivanhoe and CITIC will work hand in hand to chase our dreams and continue the legacy of Wang Laoban!

Robert Friedland

Founder and Chairman of Ivanhoe Capital Corporation

Co-Chairman of Ivanhoe Mines