

Adrian GRAUR

Symposium “Confucius and the Emergence of Contemporary China”

March 19, 2026

Distinguished guests,

Your Excellency, Mr. Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China,

Mr. President of the Suceava County Council, Gheorghe ȘOLDAN

President of the USV Senate, Prof. Valentin POPA

Representatives of the Confucius Institutes in Romania,

Dear professors, researchers, diplomats, students and guests,

It is a great honor for me to welcome you to the **Ștefan cel Mare University of Suceava**, to the symposium **“Confucius and the Emergence of Contemporary China”**, an event that brings together, during these days, academic personalities, diplomats, cultural figures and researchers concerned with understanding one of the most important historical transformations of our era: the rise of China as a major actor in the contemporary world.

This symposium aims to provide a space for **interdisciplinary reflection** on a complex phenomenon: the relationship between cultural tradition and the dynamics of modernization. In the case of China, this relationship is often analysed in reference to the intellectual legacy of **Confucius**, one of the fundamental figures of universal culture.

This event is also an opportunity to reflect on the role of **universities as spaces of intellectual and intercultural dialogue**. The **“Ștefan cel Mare” University of Suceava** assumes this mission: to create contexts in which ideas circulate freely and where the major transformations of the contemporary world can be analysed in a critical and rigorous manner.

We also hope that this symposium will contribute to **strengthening the academic and cultural relations between Romania and China**. In recent decades, these relations have developed significantly, and the **Confucius Institutes** have played an important role in facilitating educational exchanges, promoting the Chinese language and stimulating interest in Chinese culture.

We are convinced that meetings such as today’s can contribute to **deepening mutual understanding** and to the development of future collaborations in the fields of **research, education and culture**.

Allow me to express my gratitude to all those who contributed to the organization of this event: the institutional partners, the guests who kindly accepted our invitation, as well as the colleagues involved in the preparation of this symposium.

I would also like to thank all participants for their willingness to contribute to this intellectual debate. The diversity of perspectives and professional experiences present here undoubtedly represents one of the great values of this meeting.

We hope that, in the coming days, the discussions, presentations and exchanges of ideas will offer not only valuable analyses of contemporary China, but also **new bridges of dialogue between academic, cultural and institutional communities**.

In the spirit of the **Confucian tradition**, which places great importance on education and intellectual dialogue, I invite you to view this symposium as an opportunity for **mutual learning and shared reflection on the world in which we live**.

I wish you all **fruitful debates and a pleasant stay in Suceava**.