

China's Policy on Environmental Protection and the Industrial Cooperation between China and Canada in the Environmental Protection

——Speech at the 3rd annual Canada China Environmental Forum

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Dear co-chairmen Madam Carla Kearns and Mr. Corey Diamond,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm glad to be invited to attend the Third annual Canada China Environmental Forum presented by the TLI Mandarin School and the SUMMERHILL Group! On behalf of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Toronto, I'd like to extend my congratulations to you on the opening of this Forum and my sincere appreciation to the TLI Mandarin School, the SUMMERHILL Group, the sponsors, supporters and contributors for their hard work. Without this, the Third Forum would not have been made possible! I'm pleased to note that the previous forums respectively held in November 2007 and June 2008 not only have increased better understanding between the two countries in the area of the eco-system restoration and the environmental protection, but also expand cooperation in the area of science, technology and industry. Against the backdrop of the current global financial crisis, this forum is held timely and important. I'm sure that thanks to the joint efforts, this forum will be crowned with a full

success, while would, in turn, help promote environmental protection and economic development as a whole.

There is only one earth. Taking every effort to protect it is our common obligation. Since the implementation of the reform and open-up policy in 1978, the Chinese Government attaches great importance to the eco-system restoration and the environmental protection and has effectively taken a series of measures forwards this end. Now, let me elaborate some of the measures we have taken.

Firstly, the legal system had been applied to the eco-system restoration and the environmental protection. Over the past few years, the Chinese National People's Congress and its Standing Committee have adopted, revised and implemented more than 20 special laws, such as the Environmental Protection, the Prevention and Control of Atmospheric Pollution, the Promotion of Clean Production, the Renewable Energy, the Promotion of Recycling Economy and so on. In addition, there are some laws with articles on the environmental issues. Meanwhile, the State Council of China has promulgated many regulations, such as the Regulation on the Promotion of Returning the Land to Forest and Grassland. Furthermore, the Chinese ministries, the provincial people's congresses and the governments have adopted many supplementary regulations and rules accordingly. The Chinese legal system on the environmental issues is made up of the Constitution, the Laws, Regulations, Rules and the Judiciary Interpretations, is an important part of the Chinese legal system.

Secondly, the eco-system restoration and the environmental protection had been integrated into the national strategies. The "China's Agenda 21" adopted in 1994, defines for the first time the sustainable development in China. The technological development in the fields of energy, water resources and environment protection has been made priority in the "National Medium and Long Term Plan for Science and Technology Development (2006-2020)". In order to implement this plan,

the Chinese Government has adopted the comprehensive policies on economy, science and technology to promote the technological innovation in the whole society. What merits mentioning is that, as one of the parties to the “United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change” and the Kyoto Protocol to the Framework Convention, the Chinese Government promotes the implementation of them, fulfils the obligation, and issued the China’s National Climate Change Program in 2007 and the white book named “China’s Policies and Actions for Addressing Climate Change” in 2008. Now the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology together with some related departments are implementing the “China’s Scientific and Technological Actions on Climate Change”.

Thirdly, the momentous engineering projects have being built, such as the Three Gorges hydropower project, the South-to-North water diversion Project, which will optimize the allocation of the water resources, increase the integrated use of the water resources, and enhance the capacities both in flood control and calamity alleviation. Some other projects are the nature reserves, the Three-North Shelter Forest Program, the Changjiang Shelter Forest Program, the inshore Shelter Forest Program, the program of Returning the Land to Forest and Grassland, and so on.

Forthly, the energy conservation and the emission control have been taken as an important goal in economic and social development. The Chinese Government further strengthened the work on the energy conservation and emission control in 2006. We promise that by the end of 2010, China’s energy consumption per unit of GDP should decrease by roughly 20%, the water wastage per ten thousand renminbi yuan of GDP decrease by 20%, the water wastage per ten thousand renminbi yuan of the value-added of industry by 30%, and the total volume of main pollution emission by 10%. In order to accomplish this goal, the Chinese Government, on one hand, issued the comprehensive plan

which helps to adjust the industrial structure, eliminate the outdated manufacture equipments, promote the technological progress, optimize the technical standards, and on the other hand, strengthened the organizational system. The State Council of China has set up a working committee headed by Premier WEN Jiabao on energy conservation and emission control. Its main tasks are to establish across country the responsibility system and the punishment system, and to take the energy conservation and emission control as the comprehensive evaluation index of local economic and social development as well as the important matters when evaluating the work of both the local officials in various levels and the entrepreneurs. The above-mentioned measures have brought about obvious results. In the past three years, the energy consumption per unit of GDP had been decreased by 10.08% , the water wastages per ten thousand renminbi yuan of GDP and per ten thousand renminbi yuan of the value-added of industry had reduced hoped goal, the COD decreased by 6.61%, and the SO₂ decreased by 8.95%.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me say a few words about the intellectual property rights (IPRs) which will be covered in the topics of this Forum. It's a very important topic. China attaches great importance to IPRs during the last 30 years. We have developed a unique IPRs legal system in accordance with the international rules and based on China's characteristics. Our legal system features with both applications of judicatory and administration in protecting IPRs. We believe that the IPRs must be strictly observed in opening China to the outside world and the development of China. Obviously, China has achieved great successes in the IPRs lawmaking what China accomplished in less than 30 years was supposed done by the developed countries over the last 200-300 years. Without this legal system, some key enterprises such as Huawei Company, Lenovo Group, ChinaMobile which based on the technology innovation would not read their current standard. In order to identify our efforts to protect the IPRs,

the State Council of China issued the “Strategy Outline of the National Intellectual Property Rights” in June 2008. I believe that, along with the efforts to strengthen the protection of IPRs in China, we will achieve a win-win situation of the technological transfer.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

China and Canada are friendly countries. This year marks the 39th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. China has always valued the friendly relations and cooperation with Canada. We share extensive common interests. Politically our two countries don't have any historical issues, not any conflict of fundamental interests. Economically our two economies are highly complementary. China's huge market and rapid economic growth present enormous business opportunities to the Canadian economy, advanced science and technology and managerial expertise. According to the Chinese statistics, the bilateral trade between China and Canada reached US \$34.52 billion in 2008, registering an increase of 13.8% compared with what in 2007, of which China's total import from Canada increased by 16%, and its export increased by 12.6%, making China the second largest trading partner of Canada and Canada the 12th largest trading partner of China. In the area of science and technology, we are glad to note that the Governments of China and Canada signed the collaboration agreement on the science and technology in January 2007. The Ministry of Science and Technology of China signed the memorandum of understanding and set up funds on research and innovation collaboration with the Agriculture Ministry of Canada, the National Research Council, the International Development Research Center, and the Governments of Alberta, Quebec, British Columbia, and Ontario. The administrative departments of Environment, Health, Agriculture, Transportation, Meteorology, Forest, Ocean, Space, Nature Research Fund and others of China have signed the MOUs or agreements with the related agencies or organizations of Canada.

Among the international cooperation research projects which were funded by the China international cooperation programme on science and technology during 2001 to 2008, the Sino-Canadian cooperation projects accounts for 6.83% of which international cooperation projects, making Canada the 5th largest country in carrying out in the cooperation with China, only next to USA, Germany, Japan and Russia. The projects between the two countries were 14% of the ecology and environment, 19% of the transportation, 16% of IT, 16% of the life science and biotechnology, 16% of the food and agriculture. It shows that there is frequent exchange of persons and fruitful cooperation between the two countries in the field of science and technology. The more science and technology cooperation projects between the two countries, the greater role we play in promoting the commercialization and the industrialization of the research achievements, introducing the new products and new markets, increasing new jobs, and quicker recovery of the global economy, if we preserve continuously the great trend on the expansion of the bilateral science and technology cooperation.

Over the past 30 years, China has made world-renowned progress in the eco-system restoration and the environmental protection. However we are still facing with arduous tasks in this regard. The Chinese Government will continue to work hard to ensure the safety of the water, health of the people and the quality of the environment. In order to realize the sustainable development in China, we are willing to learn from the developed country's experience and import advanced technologies of the environmental protection.

In conclusion, this forum is important for the exchanges among the participants, from both Chinese and Canadian universities, research institutions, the enterprises and other organizations, as it will help enhance the mutual understanding, and friendly cooperation between the Chinese and Canadian people, and will make still fresh contributions to the collaboration between our two countries in the field of science,

technology and the industries of the environment !