

**Speech by Vice Chairman Xie Zhenhua at the Opening Ceremony of
the 1st Meeting of the 3rd Phase of CCICED
23 November, 2002**

Members, experts and friends,

Good morning. First of all, please allow me to extend my warm welcome to you on behalf Chairman Wen Jiabao. I have two news to tell: one is that at the just-concluded 16th CPC National Congress, Mr. Wen Jiabao, Chairman of the CCICED, was honorably elected as member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Central Government and was borne with more important missions; the second is as Chairman Wen Jiabao has been on a business trip outside Beijing and is unable to come back to attend this meeting, I was entrusted by him to host today's meeting in his capacity.

I would like to make a brief introduction on the formulation of the new phase of CCICED. The name list of Chinese and international members of the 3rd phase of CCICED was decided upon request of the rules of procedure of the Council, consultations with all aspects by the bureau of the Council, agreements by members themselves and approval of the State Council. There is no change as for the positions of Chair and Vice Chairs of the bureau. To ensure a better daily operation of the Council, it was decided that Mr. Good and I take up the position as executive Vice Chairs. In order to keep the balance of Chinese and international members, Mr. Lönnroth from Sweden was included as international Vice Chair. With a view to strengthening the relationship and coordination among and between the Task Forces, the bureau also decided after consideration that, Professor Mr. Sun Honglie from China and Professor Hanson from Canada would be invited to work as core experts and take up the above-said responsibilities. All the above-mentioned have been submitted to the State Council for approval. At the initiative of Chairman Wen Jiabao, I would like to submit the name list to members and experts present today. And in addition, upon the initiative of the bureau, some relative amendments and changes have been made to the "Discussion Paper on Terms of Reference", "Discussion Paper on Rules of Procedure", "Explanation on Drafting", the proposed establishment of task forces, and the nominees of co-chairs of the task forces. I would like to submit them also to members and experts. You are welcome to make comments on them.

If there is no more comments, we could now adopt the name list of the Chinese and international members of the 3rd CCICED, "Terms of Reference" , "Rules of Procedure" and the proposed establishment of task forces and the name list of co-chairs of these task forces of the CCICED.

Now, on behalf of the Chinese government, I would like to announce that the 3rd phase of the CCICED has been established.

Given the fact that this meeting is convened just after the closing of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the meeting is thus titled “Environment, Development and Governance – response to WSSD”. The agenda and program of this meeting have been printed and circulated to each member and representative. Three Chinese and international representatives are invited to give their keynote speeches, briefing on the WSSD and responses from countries around the globe towards the summit, China’s response to the WSSD and its macro planning, general perspectives and important measures with regard to the implementation of its sustainable development strategy. Some key Chinese and international experts are invited to give reports on Issue Paper and leaders from 4 provincial and autonomous regions will also make their presentations. The purpose of such an arrangement is to give everyone present here a better understanding of the background knowledge and some latest information, as well as to keep the content of general debate relatively focused. Compared with previous meetings, this year’s annual meeting gives more time for debates. This is because members all agreed to have more opportunities and time to voice their comments when we consulted with them at the end of the 2nd phase of CCICED. Thus as a result, we left more opportunities and time for discussion when we prepared this meeting’s program. Please give your comments on the meeting’s program and agenda. We will endorse them and pass on to the next item if there are no objections.

Chairman Wen Jiabao has sent a written speech for this meeting. Now, at the entrustment of Chairman Wen Jiabao, I would like to read his speech.

(After reading the written speech by Chairman Wen Jiabao)

Dear members,

The CCICED is an advisory body providing decision-making recommendations to the State Council of our country. Members of CCICED are composed of the best expert scholars and social activists in the related research areas from home and abroad, who have rich experiences and original research works in the field of environment and development. For the past 11 years, the CCICED has made a great many recommendations and suggestions to the Chinese government and conducted remarkable researches. We have to admit that, the CCICED has done its part in the achievements of China’s cause of environment and development, particularly in its important contribution to the government’s decision-making.

China has entered into a new stage of development during the period of the current CCICED. The 16th CPC National Congress has set out a blueprint for China’s development for the future 20 years. During this development process, the key for an effective solution to environmental problems and strengthened capability for sustainable development lies in the government’s decision-making and actions of the whole society. This is an important period for the CCICED to play an important role. I believe that, with the joint efforts of all members, the 3rd phase of CCICED is sure to play a bigger role in the process of China’s building a well-off society in an all around way.

Premier Zhu Rongji will meet with all members of the CCICED at the end of this meeting and that is on the afternoon of 25 November. Members would take this opportunity to put forth recommendations and suggestions directly to the premier of our government.

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