

**Speech by Vice Premier Wen Jiabao at the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase of CCICED  
23 November, 2002**

The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of CCICED has been opened today. On behalf of the Chinese government and in the name of myself, I would like to extend my warm welcome to members and experts of the new phase of the CCICED, and especially to our foreign friends coming from far away.

The just-concluded 16<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of China has made important arrangements for China's reforms and development in the new century and the new stage, with setting out grand objectives of building a well-off society in an all-round way and putting forward a mission of economic, political, cultural development and restructuring. The congress stressed that the sustainable development should be put to a much more prominent position and persistent efforts should be made to improve the ecological environment, increase significantly the efficiency of using resources, enhance harmony between man and nature, and to push the whole society onto a path to civilized development featuring the growth of production, an affluent life and a sound ecosystem. All this indicates China's determination of steadfastly implementing the sustainable development strategy.

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held not long ago, governments conducted in-depth elaborations on a great many environment and development issues facing the human beings, signaling a strong wish to work together to realize sustainable development. Premier Zhu Rongji attended the meeting as head of Chinese delegation and gave his five-point propositions on the implementation of sustainable development. The Chinese government highly commends the positive results of this WSSD and will, in accordance with the "Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development" and "Implementation Plan on Sustainable Development", move ahead with the environment and development in China, with a view to promoting the complementarity and coordination among economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

By sticking to the sustainable development strategy, China has made significant progress in environmental protection and ecological construction for the past five years or so. While maintaining a rapid economic growth, China has been working hard to control the pollutant discharges. The total amount of pollutant discharges around the country has been dropped by 10 percent; pollution prevention in key areas has been enhanced while air pollution in major cities have been reduced; some preliminary achievements have been made in ecological protection and construction, with 5.027million hectares of afforestation achieved within five accumulated years, 2.1636 million hectares of farmlands returned to forests, and inputs to environmental protection and ecological construction increased annually with a total amount of RMB580 billion within five years, which takes up 1.29% of the GDP. During the

period of “Tenth Five-Year” Plan, we will step up with our efforts in environmental protection and reservation with a proposed input of RMB 700 billion, with a view to steadily reducing the total amount of pollutant discharges by 10% and further improving the environment quality in cities and countries.

The Chinese government attaches great importance to international cooperation in the field of environment and development. Ever since its establishment, the CCICED has made significant contributions in promoting China’s sustainable development cause and conducted long-term and remarkable cooperation and exchanges in various aspects, including environment and economy, environment and trade, environment and transportation, sustainable agriculture, forests and grassland, energy, biodiversity, cleaner production and pollution control, etc. The CCICED has also offered many valuable recommendations to the Chinese government, some of which has been adopted by relative departments of the Chinese government. The Chinese government is wholehearted grateful to members and experts of the CCICED for their long term attention and support to China’s environment and development cause. On the occasion of the establishment of the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of CCICED, I would like to extend my sincere hope that the members and experts would continue to give more attention and support to China’s environment and development cause.

I wish the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of CCICED greater achievements and this meeting a whole success.

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