

Speech at the Opening Ceremony

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Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson Biggs, Mr. Minister, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, dear colleagues,

I just learned again that CCICED will soon be 20 years old. By seeing the preparation for this meeting, Minister, I believe CCICED is year by year younger and younger.

It is very productive preparation. We learned that our recommendations are more and more relevant for the decision making of the Chinese Government. It is the third time we have received a report on what happened last year with regard to those policy recommendations we made last year. I believe that we can be very proud that there are direct repercussions. We mentioned ecotaxation. We learned that ecotaxation is starting a pilot project in China. We mentioned carbon trade. We learned there is a pilot project on carbon trade in important cities and provinces in China.

We discussed in detail cities, we learned the outcome of Expo 2010 in Shanghai gave a boost for greening our cities knowing that we are entering an urban millennium. On the other side, last year we were still confronted with the disaster of the international financial and economic crisis. We learned that China did its utmost to maintain growth and stabilize the global economy. But we also learned that this crisis has positive consequences, too. Already in the stimulus package to overcome the economic crisis, lots of green elements were integrated, which was the core of the greening development process. It was made very clear that maintaining growth will go hand in hand with a transformation to a new paradigm shift in the great speech of the Vice Premier.

I am very sure that our agenda for today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow is echoing those needs. It is great that you could concentrate on nature capital, especially with regard to ecosystems.

The meeting is at appropriate time. We know that the Nagoya Meeting just finished with very important successes. Congratulations to all those who attended the meeting,



especially Mr. Achim Steiner: congratulations to you and UNEP and others, but also to the Chinese Government.

This Annual General Meeting is important from the perspective of sustainability of ecosystems in lands and oceans. It is very important to underline the intention of compensation. We also discussed the topic of rural areas. We learned that there are many challenges. Compensation may be one of the contributions to stabilization of the rural areas as well. We know that rural areas have very bad terms of trade with regard to the relationship of production of market goods and market price. So compensation may be a positive contribution also for the development of rural areas. We know that soil is at the center of our interests. What we are not doing now with regard to the stabilization of the productivity of soil will give us a lot of additional problems in the near future; the same goes with oceans. Reports on these matters are all wonderfully prepared at a world-class scientific level.

So I come back to what I mentioned at the beginning. CCICED seems to be younger and younger. The quality of its scientific work is higher than ever. Congratulations to those who are responsible for this, the Chief Advisors and all those in the working groups. The preparation is more and more professional. Congratulations to the Secretary General and especially to you, Mr. Minister.

I sincerely hope that we also present again recommendations to the Government that have concrete consequences for the 12th Five-Year Plan. This plan could be a green Five-Year Plan. The next industrialization phase must be a green industrialization phase, must point the way to a green economy. I believe CCICED did its utmost to contribute. I am very happy this is now echoed so positively by all of us and by the government itself.

Thank you very much!