

Leading Comments at CCICED 20th Anniversary Forum

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State Councilor, Dr. Song, Minister Zhou, Mr. Qu, Vice Minister Li, Esteemed colleagues on the Council,

Mr. Martin Lees' talk just confirmed that an anniversary gives us a unique opportunity to learn from the past, but also to reflect on important challenges of our time. The current crisis of the global economy and the political space it has created allows us to ask fundamental questions about how the system works and how it does not. This is an ideal time to plant seeds for and initiate reforms.

It is often the sudden and unexpected events that reshape political and economic context overnight. The last decade was caught by shocks: 9/11 at one end, the financial crisis and the oil food spike at the other. This decade has already seen another oil food spike, another fundamental financial crisis, the Fukushima nuclear accident, and major extreme weather events. Shocks and crises spread further and faster than before, but so can smart ideas and new solutions. The next years we will see the arrival of a staggering amount of technology, particularly in the areas of biotechnology and genetics, computer science and energy and resource efficiency. Many of these new technologies could have highly positive environmental impacts, from reducing emissions to enhanced resource productivity. Dr. Song raised a very fundamental question in his talk: how to manage the energy poverty. There are 1.5 billion people globally not having access to basic electricity and there will be 2 to 3 billion more of us by 2050; how can we accommodate for this and decouple this from rising CO₂ emissions? We very much need policies that introduce new inventions and also new technology, like China has had during the last years, going from having almost none to being the world leader in producing and exporting windmills, and also solar panels. By



doing so, they have introduced these new energy sources and new markets at a much lower price.

Throughout history, change has always required a champion. We need leaders who know how to collaborate across sectors and continents, and who can articulate a vision of what is possible. I believe it was this kind of vision that was driving the founding fathers of CCICED. CCICED is a unique institution. Other nations should consider, as also previous speakers mentioned, the experience that China has had with this institution, with a view to establish their own local brand of CCICED. However, a nation has to be brave to seek independent advice outside the government corridors. China has shown that kind of self confidence and braveness and has evidently gained from it.

Two main transformations are underway in China: a move to becoming a conservation society and an all inclusive society. A young mature adult, CCICED, is up to the task of providing the best advice along the difficult transformational path that China is following. Or to use the visionary phrase of Minister Zhou at the start of this meeting, the realization of China's green transformation will be China's active contribution to the world's development.

I am really pleased and feel privileged to be part of a Council that can also be a partner with China on this very important path.

Thank you.