

ADDRESS BY GUEST OF HONOUR

H.E. Mr. Zhang Chunxiang

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan

Delivered by Mr. Song Deheng, Political Counsellor,
Embassy of the People's Republic of China

Honourable Chief Guest Mr. Parvez Butt, Chairman
Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission,
H.E.Mr. A.D. Idris Waziri, High Commissioner of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria to Pakistan,
Dr. Hameed Ahmed Khan, Executive Director
COMSATS,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a matter of great pleasure to speak at this
inaugural session of the Initial Meeting on Science
and Technology Capacity-Building for Sustainable
Development. I hereby felicitate the opening of the
meeting and wish it a success.

What is particularly meaningful is that the objective
of this meeting is to identify the challenges of Science
and Technology Capacity-Building in the developing
world and devise some solutions for such issues. This
meeting, therefore, could be regarded as a follow-up
of the United Nations Earth Summit on Sustainable
Development in Johannesburg, South Africa.

It will be safe for me not to try to identify the challenges
and devise their solutions, which are the work of
experts attending this meeting. However, I would like
to take this opportunity to make some general
propositions and say a few words about China's
progress in this regard.

To realize global sustainable development is a
common task for all countries. Both developed and
developing countries should undertake their respective
obligations. On the one hand, developing countries
should do their homework. We also should try to
cooperate and complement each other. For instance,
Pakistan and China have achieved fruitful cooperation
in the fields of wind-power, small hydropower stations
and bio-gas, etc. On the other hand, the developed
countries should shoulder greater responsibilities. On
the issue of capacity-building of developing countries,
developed countries should assist developing countries

in areas such as technical consultancy, training of
personnel and mechanism-building.

The international community should take effective
action to help developing countries improve their level
of education in S&T. Developing countries lack
financial resources for sustainable development, as
they are constrained due to slow economic
development. It is hoped that the developed countries
will honour their commitments by taking effective
action in financial support and transfer of technology.

The state policy of China has been: "*Science and
Education Rejuvenate Nation*". Thanks to more than
10 years of hard work, China has made big headway
on sustainable development. Since the Rio summit,
China has acceded to a series of international
conventions and completed the domestic procedure
for the approval of the Kyoto Protocol.

The Chinese government has taken the lead in
formulating *China's Agenda 21*. Under this Agenda,
we have mapped out the strategy for rejuvenating the
nation through science and technology and the
strategy for sustainable development. We have also
identified the key-sectors for China's sustainable
development in this new century and relevant programs
of action.

China's strategy for sustainable development has now
run through all aspects of the country's economic and
social developmental efforts, which effectively
promoted a sustained and harmonious development
of the economy, population, resources, and
environment and has scored remarkable successes.

In recent years, China has stepped up its financial
input in the environment sector. From 1998 through
2002, a total of RMB 580 billion yuan (equal to 69.88
billion US dollars) was invested in protection of
environment and preservation of eco-system,
accounting for 1.29 per cent of the country's GDP

Address by Guest of Honour

during the same period. China has allocated 10 billion yuan (US\$1.2 billion) to fund S&T research on sustainable development during the ongoing 10th Five-Year Plan (2001-05) period. After years of searching, we have found for ourselves a format for development with Chinese characteristics, and our efforts for sustainable development are heading for a promising prospect.

As the world's largest developing country and a major player in environmental protection, China is an

important force in international cooperation for clean environment. We are fully aware of the responsibilities on our shoulders. If we do a good job in running China well, it will be a great contribution to the world's cause of sustainable development. We will continue to work hard, honor our commitments with deeds, and steadfastly take the road of sustainable development.

Thank you.