

## **2 Opening Ceremony**

### **(1) Opening Remarks**

**Mr. Lin Shusen**

**Acting Mayor of Guangzhou**

The 2nd Asian-Pacific City Summit is being held in Guangzhou at a time of the traditional Chinese harvest moon festival and our national foundation day. It is a great honor for Guangzhou to be able to take on the duty of hosting the Summit. As the representative of the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government and of the 6.4 million citizens of Guangzhou, I would like to extend a sincere welcome and season's greetings to all the Summit participants gathered here.

Currently, the Asia Pacific region has the fastest growing economy and is the most dynamic region in the world. It possesses great diversity in the spheres of economics, politics, history and culture. In the past, this region greatly contributed to human civilization and in the present day it is capturing world attention. Its economic and political status is continuing to rise on the world stage and it is increasingly being seen as a region overflowing with vitality and possessing rich character. In 1979, China began its policy of reform and openness and based on the directive of Deng Zhao Ping's theory of "socialism with Chinese characteristics," a new era of remarkable national and social development was embarked upon. China's rapid economic growth and the increased vitality in its trade with the Asia Pacific region has played a significant role in the advancement of economic cooperation in the Asia Pacific region.

Guangzhou is the capital of Guangdong Province and is the province's center of politics, economics, technology, education and culture. Furthermore, it is a city of culture with a 2000 year history and in ancient times it was part of the ocean silk road. In the last few decades this city which boasts such a long history, has begun to regain the glory of its youth and has gone through remarkable change. The people's economy and society have developed very successfully. In 1993, Guangzhou was admitted as the first Chinese city and the fourth Asian city as a member of the World Large Cities Association. In terms of domestic strength, Guangzhou is lead narrowly only by Shanghai and Beijing and so claims the rank of China's number three city. Guangzhou has also been cited as one of "The First Batch of 40 Exemplary Cities with the Best Environment for Investment" and on a national basis was ranked as being in the top 10 of China's thirty-seven major cities in a quantitative examination of city facilities. Nineteen ninety-five marked the sixth

consecutive year of highly favorable results for the city. Currently, with the help of all the citizens, we are conforming to a predetermined plan, modernization is accelerating and the great effort necessary to build an international city is being undertaken.

In four years, humans will enter into the 21st century. City leaders must earnestly grapple with such important issues as what form city development should take in the 21st century and how much development and construction should be undertaken. In the process of promoting urban modernization and for the sake of bringing about development and prosperity in the cities of the Asia Pacific region, Guangzhou, in cooperation with these cities, would like to engage in lively and significant debate concerning city development in the early 21st century. We sincerely want to work hand in hand with you all to achieve true friendship and, based on the idea that our similarities far outweigh our differences, we would also like to foster exchange and cooperation between our cities in a variety of forms and create an even greater new century for the Asia Pacific region.

Finally, I sincerely hope the 2nd Asian-Pacific City Summit is a great success and I wish for the happiness and health of the city leaders and their wives as well as all those participants gathered here today.

(2) Greeting from the representative of the United Nations

Mr. Lai Shianlung

**Principal Officer, Department for Development Support and Management  
Services, United Nations**

Honourable Mayor of Guangzhou, Honourable Mayor of Fukuoka City, Your Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, I am both pleased and honoured to have this opportunity to greet you on behalf of the United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services, on the occasion of the 2nd Asian-Pacific City Summit meeting in Guangzhou. At the outset, I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations to the organizers on the foresighted initiative and efforts in convening this important meeting.

We recall that the 1st Asian-Pacific City Summit meeting held in Fukuoka in September 1994 was a great success. The first Summit meeting provided a unique forum to promote face-to-face discussions among mayors of the Asian Pacific cities, and to establish a framework for mutual cooperation in search for harmony between urban development and the human living environment. We participated in the Summit meeting particularly because we believed in such a role that international cooperation between Asian Pacific cities would play to lead to a more prosperous and sustainable human communities in this region.

Today, the participating leaders of Asian cities will hold thorough deliberations on various issues on "Urban Development in the 21st Century." We fully share the concern of the organizers of the Summit meeting about such issues of urban development and planning, governance, environment, and so forth. I myself, on behalf of the United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services, would like to present later in this meeting our observations and views on these strategically important issues.

Keeping in mind the critical impacts that the Asian cities are giving on the sustainable growth of the world economy, it may be in order to highlight here one of the basic premises of the Secretary-General's Agenda for Development, namely that economic growth is the mainspring of development, and that an acceleration of the rate of growth is a condition for expanding the resource base for economic, technological and social transformation. We believe that traditional approaches to development cooperation have not been adequate for achieving growth, reducing poverty, and setting the stage for sustainable development. Growth requires political commitment and vision. We need fresh approaches with new powerful partners, local governments, for the promotion of economic and social advancement of the global community. The United Nations can act as facilitator and communicator, but it cannot substitute

for the commitment of actors of the international community, including individual states, local governments, NGOs, and private sector organizations. The United Nations can only, and will work with all of you to accomplish these goals that this Summit has set forth.

I wish you all possible success in your productive deliberations over the next two days on the challenging issues reflected in your agenda. I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the warm hospitality which the Mayor of Guangzhou and his colleagues have extended to us.

Thank you.

### (3) Greetings from the leader of Guangdong Provincial Government

**Mr. Zhong Qiquan**

**Vice Governor, Guangdong Province**

The 2nd Asian-Pacific City Summit is being held on the happy occasion of the 47th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 2210th anniversary of the establishment of Guangzhou City. As the representative of the Guangdong Provincial Government, I sincerely welcome the staging of this meeting and hope that it is a great success.

The world is approaching the 21st century. Looking back at the past and into the future it is heartening to note the progress made by civilization in the 20th century. It was an age when technology and productivity shined. As the 20th century comes to a close, the contribution made by the Asia Pacific region to civilization and development has become widely known. At present, government in this region is stable, high economic growth is continuing and development and hope abound. The vigor of this strong growth is providing Guangdong Province with a valuable and historical opportunity for economic development.

The period between the end of this century and the beginning of the next is a very important one for Guangdong's social and economic development. In 1992, China clearly established a model aimed at creating a socialist market economic system. In addition, the basic realization of modernization is being demanded of Guangdong Province within the next 20 years. In order to fulfill this glorious, great and historical duty, Guangdong has developed very imaginative practices and conducted investigations. In order to revolutionize our economic system, while still utilizing the successes of the reform and liberalization achieved in the past several decades, we have embraced a different style of economic growth. As a result, social and economic development has been notably successful. In particular, the Zhujiang Delta region has monopolized upon good timing, location and social harmony and is working towards developing the expansion of an outward looking style economy. City construction and urbanization have advanced remarkably. The cities of the Zhujiang Delta have already become one of the most prosperous and vital regions in China and Asia. Located in the inland part of the Zhujiang Delta, Guangzhou is Guangdong Province's centre for politics, economics, technology, education, information and culture. In the process of striving to achieve modernization we are continually strengthening the city's infrastructure and management as well as stressing the preservation of the ecological environment. The construction of cultural and educational facilities has been accelerated and we have promoted the development of technology and information. The centripetal and radiating forces of Guangzhou as a central city have also been strengthened.

At present, the city's status within the Zhujiang Delta, Guangdong Province and indeed on a national level, increasingly stands out and at the same time the rush towards achieving the magnificent goal of becoming an international city continues. In preparation for the 21st century and in order to achieve the basic goal of modernization, Guangdong Province hopes to quadruple the 1980 per capita GDP by the year 2000 and eradicate poverty from the province. We intend to bring certain parts of the province up to a relatively wealthy level and work so that we can see renewed improvements and elevation in the lifestyles of the province's 6.84 million residents. We have begun to formulate policy for a development plan for both the eastern and western parts of the province which is based on the "Zhujiang Delta Economic Zone Plan" which has already been completed by 100 experts from throughout Guangdong. Furthermore, we are diligently regulating economic structure, developing knowledge intensive industries, implementing a continuous strategy of development and directing our efforts towards making Guangdong the leader of economic development in China. In order to achieve the above-mentioned goals we hope to learn about the experience and style of the sophisticated city management of the countries of the Asia Pacific region and intend to put this toward the achievement of even healthier and rapid development of the Zhujiang Delta region. We sincerely request the support and assistance of all our friends assembled here today.

Looking ahead to the 21st century, we can predict the further acceleration of the internationalization of the economy of Guangdong, particularly the Zhujiang Delta region and Guangzhou. Through this meeting we sincerely hope that we can further our understanding of the countries of the Asia Pacific region. Furthermore, in the quest for development we want to learn together with the countries of the Asia Pacific region, strengthen our relationship of cooperation and in order to create an even better tomorrow we hope to add a new page to the economic development of this region.

I wish for the good health of all the guests assembled here today.

Thank you very much.

(4) Greetings from the leader of the Guangzhou Municipal People's Congress

Mr. Huang Weining

Guangzhou Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee Leader

It is very gratifying that the leaders of the cities of the Asia Pacific region have gathered here to study and debate together urban development in the 21st century. As the representative of the Standing Committee of the Guangzhou City People's Representative Assembly, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on the staging of this meeting and also welcome the representatives of each city. Guangzhou is a well known historical city and one of China's coastal "open cities." Since 1979 Guangzhou has rapidly entered into a new stage following the establishment of reform, liberalization and a market economy. In 1992 Guangzhou clearly mapped out strategic goals for constructing a modern internationalized city and already we have seen great progress.

At present, Guangzhou has entered into an important period of continual development of reform, liberalization and modernization. Our goal for 2005 is to realise basic modernization and take the first firm step towards constructing an international city. In order to achieve the realization of this magnificent blueprint we have established a system of socialist democracy and guaranteed the operation of numerous laws and regulations. Also, we have advanced constitutional administration by the government and will achieve a plan for constitutional municipal government. Furthermore, we have put effort into creating legislation and developing a legislative environment favorable to bringing about rapid development of the people's economy. By utilising the features of an international city with high quality legislation we have resolved to advance into the 21st century. With this in mind, by looking at the valuable experiences of the cities of the Asia Pacific region we hope to learn about their legislative organization, city construction and management. With this as a guide we sincerely hope to be able to develop Guangzhou's construction even faster and even better. Moreover, from the point of view of strategy, we would like to join hands, deepen friendship, promote understanding and contribute in an appropriate manner to the wonderful future that exists in the prosperity and development of the Asia Pacific region. I wish for the great success of the Summit. Thank you very much.

(5) Greetings from the representative of participating cities

**Mr. Keiichi Kuwahara**  
**Mayor of Fukuoka City**

On the occasion of the 2nd Asian-Pacific City Summit I would like to take the opportunity to make a few brief remarks. It gives me untold pleasure that this wonderful summit is able to be held in Guangzhou, a city of beautiful nature and enormous vitality which boasts a long history and under policies of reform and liberalization maintains an unshakable lead within China as a developed city.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the representative of Guangzhou's Acting Mayor Lin Shusen and Former Mayor Li Ziliu for their considerable efforts in staging this summit. I would also like to thank the representatives of each city and all the guests gathered here today.

The 1st Asian-Pacific City Summit was held two years ago in September 1994 in Fukuoka City. The basic purport of the Asian-Pacific City Summit is to assemble under one roof the leaders of the major cities of this region which has achieved such remarkable economic growth and rapid change.

These leaders then engage in frank exchange of opinion in order to solve urban problems that accompany development such as those relating to traffic and the environment. The Summit also allows for the sharing of wisdom and experience and aims to construct an "Asia Pacific City Network" to help in the search for mutual prosperity.

In order to bring about lasting development in the Asia Pacific region which is blessed with such bountiful climate and nature, I think direct mutual exchange and cooperation between region and region and city and city that crosses over borders and the differences in politics, economy, language and culture is extremely significant. It is very important to engage in city administration based on such concepts and I believe the Asian-Pacific City Summit contributes in a very large way to achieving the above-mentioned goals.

On the occasion of the 2nd Summit I keenly anticipate that the representatives from each city will exchange opinions and information at the same level, nay, at an even greater level than the 1st Summit, that the construction of networks will be stimulated and the meeting will be a significant one which contributes to the further development and peace of the Asia Pacific region.

Finally, let me express my gratitude to the many people from Guangzhou involved in the preparations for the Summit. Also, I sincerely wish for the great success of the 2nd Summit and for the happiness and prosperity of all those gathered here.