



Greetings

Mr. Zhou Nan

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Today, it is a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity of attending the Second World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention. I believe that the current Convention will further strengthen unity and cooperation among Chinese entrepreneurs all over the world, promote the universal development of the Chinese enterprises and make fresh contributions to mankind's drive for peace and development. Here, please allow me to express my heartfelt thanks to the Chairman of the Convention, Mr. Henry Fok, for his kind invitation and wish the Convention a complete success.

At present, the international situation is undergoing a process of realignment. The trend towards multi-polarity is gaining momentum and the issue of economic development is becoming more and more prominent in international affairs. People have noted that in the development of the world economy, Asia is playing the role of a locomotive and the high-speed growth of China's economy is all the more spectacular. Guided by Deng Xiaoping's theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, the Chinese people are carrying out in-depth reform and opening-up, building and gradually improving the socialist market

economic system and accelerating the pace of modernization. Now, enormous and profound changes have and will continue to take place in the outlook of the motherland. Never before has our country with ancient civilization been so full of dynamism and vitality, never before have people throughout the country been so wholeheartedly devoted to the economic development and never before has China enjoyed such high international prestige. One can definitely say that in a fairly long historical period to come, China will continue to maintain a high-speed, sustained and healthy economic growth and will achieve the strategic goal of quadrupling the GNP ahead of the schedule, thus laying a solid foundation for China's much bigger strides forward in the 21st century.

The gratifying progress and development of China are inseparable from the vigorous support by all the overseas descendants of the Chinese nation. With industriousness and resourcefulness, scores of millions of expatriate Chinese and Chinese of foreign nationalities around the world have made significant contributions to the economic development and social advancement of the countries and regions where they reside. Having abundant capital, a



large stock of scientific and technological talent and a business network in every corner of the globe, the Chinese entrepreneurs across the Five Continents constitute a fairly active force backed up by considerable strength in the present international economic arena. Descendants of the Chinese nation including all of the Chinese entrepreneurs coming from different parts of the world present today have eagerly supported China's reform and opening-up and the modernization drive, and served as an important bridge in promoting economic, scientific and technological cooperation between China and other countries. Each and every development and progress in China embody your painstaking efforts which people of the motherland will always bear in mind. Here, I would like to extend to you our heartfelt and deepest gratitude.

While the motherland is marching towards modernization, Hong Kong will soon return to the embrace of its motherland. The "one country, two systems" concept and various policies formulated by the Chinese Government have already been incorporated in the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law and

publicized to the whole world. We have all along kept good faith. The Chinese Government has full determination and capability to ensure Hong Kong's smooth transition and stability and prosperity. We are confident that after 1997, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will preserve her status as an important financial, trade and shipping centre in the Asian region and play an even bigger role in the new pattern of China's opening-up. One can be certain that Hong Kong — the Pearl of the Orient will shine even more radiantly under the brilliant guidance of the great concept of "one country, two systems."

As arranged by the Convention, you will be invited to visit the Pearl River Delta area and see with your own eyes China's reform and opening-up and economic development. I sincerely hope that you will put forward valuable suggestions and opinions concerning various aspects of work in the mainland so as to help us make improvement and at the same time make concerted efforts for the reinvigoration of the Chinese nation.

Thank you.