

JOIN HANDS IN POVERTY REDUCTION FOR A MORE HARMONIOUS EAST ASIA

——Proceedings of the Second ASEAN Plus Three High-level Workshop on Poverty Reduction

携手消除贫困 共建和谐东亚

——第二届东盟与中日韩(10+3)区域扶贫高层研讨会会议资料汇编

Zhang Lei Ch 张 磊 主 Huang Chengwei De 黄承伟 副

Chief Editor 主编 Deputy Chief Editor 副主编

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From the Editor

On 12th December 2005 at the Ninth ASEAN Plus Three Summit, Wen Jiabao, Chinese Premier presented a speech under the title of Work Together For a Better Future Through Stronger Cooperation in which he proclaimed that UNDP has set up a regional poverty alleviation center in China and China is ready to host the Second ASEAN Plus Three High - level Workshop on Poverty Reduction next year to enhance cooperation with other countries in poverty alleviation. In line with the Premier's commitment and entrusted by China State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) took to design and organize the event and draft documents for the workshop. The workshop turned out to be a complete success with active response from ten ASEAN member countries, Japan, Korea and ASEAN Secretariat and with the support from General Office of China State Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, China National School of Administration, People's Governments of Guangxi Autonomous Region and Yunnan Province. The result will definitely come as a driving force for regional efforts in poverty reduction and collaboration among the countries. The workshop was also contributed by the Asian Development Bank.

Now the workshop proceedings including remarks, conference speeches, Beijing Proposal, field trips, press releases and conference review are edited for publication as a reference for those in need.

编者的话

2005年12月12日,中国国务院总理温家宝在第9次东盟与中日韩领导人会议上发表题为"巩固深化合作,共创美好未来"的演讲中正式宣布:"联合国开发计划署在中国设立了区域扶贫中心,中国愿在明年承办第二届10+3区域扶贫高层研讨会,与各国加强减贫方面的合作。"根据温家宝总理的承诺,受中国国务院扶贫开发领导小组办公室委托,中国国际扶贫中心具体承担了"第二届东盟与中日韩(10+3)区域扶贫高层研讨会"的设计、组织和文件的起草工作。在东盟10国、日本、韩国和东盟秘书处的积极回应下,在中国国务院办公厅、外交部、财政部、国家行政学院和广西壮族自治区、云南省人民政府的大力支持下,会议取得了圆满成功,对于促进区域减贫进程、加强区域扶贫合作交流必将产生重要影响。本次会议得到了亚洲开发银行的部分资助。

现将会议讲话致辞、大会发言、北京倡议、实地考察、媒体报道、会议综述等材料编辑出版,以供相关方面参阅。

Catalogue

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I Remarks

讲话致辞



Join Hands in Poverty Reduction for a More Harmonious East Asia

Hui Liangyu

Vice Premier, P. R. China

September 25, 2006

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends:

September in Beijing is a time for refreshing wind and fragrant flowers. It is also an important time as the Second ASEAN Plus Three High – level Workshop on Poverty Reduction takes place in Beijing. On behalf of Chinese Government, I congratulate the convening of the workshop and extend my sincere welcome to all the guests.

A world without hunger and poverty where everybody shares the wealth and prosperity is a universal dream for the human being and thus a common task in front of all East Asian countries. For years, substantial progress with poverty reduction has appeared in the countries to add to overall social and economic development. It's a result of their efforts to catch up with economic globalization, to restructure the economy, to open wider to the outside world and to get more involved in regional cooperation. Today, government officials from ASEAN member states and China, Japan and Korea as well as observers from international organizations gathered to exchange experience and

lessons, to analyze difficulties and challenges ahead, to explore effective solutions to poverty issues and to express commitments to actions against poverty. I have the confidence that the workshop should make new contributions to the development, stability and prosperity throughout the whole East Asia.

China is a heavily populated country in the developing world and also the important practitioner of global fight against poverty. Poverty reduction agenda in China was laid on a solid foundation which derived from fast and sustained economic development and improved living quality since the founding of the New China, especially the reform and opening – up. From 1978 to 2005, China's GDP grew by 9.6% annually and in per capita terms it rose from \$ 226 to \$ 1707. Since the 1980s, Chinese government initiated an orderly and large – scaled poverty reducing program which is a symbol that China took on a development – based road to reducing poverty that relies on government guidance, mass participation, self – reliance and all – round growth, a road that helped more than 200 million Chinese poor out of poverty. It is an unprecedented move that contributes to poverty reduction worldwide.

Reviewing the history of development and poverty reduction, China can share its experience and lessons in the following aspects:

First, the leading role of government was put to full play. Guarantee to its people the right to life and development is the very fundamental mission based on which Chinese government designed its poverty reduction agenda. The achievements of reform and development should be equally benefited throughout the nation to realize common wealth and social fairness and justice. Chinese government mainstreamed poverty reduction into national plan for economic and social development with the national program of poverty reduction and development formulated. The government worked out the Seven – Year Priority Poverty Alleviation Program in 1994 and the Development – oriented Poverty Reduction Program for Rural China (2001—2010) in 2001. Chinese government, for years, adhered to the development base for poverty reduction by increasing input, strengthening infrastructure construction, restructuring industry and utilizing local resources. Other measures included improvement of living and production conditions of poor areas, enhancing the self – development capability of the poor,

upgrading the education and medical care system so as to bring about a new image of the poor region. Under the leadership of the Central Government, governments at all levels have strictly abided by the head – accountability system to perform the principle of clear accountability split. It has been proved by practice that a full play of government role in leading the work should be the fundamental guarantee for poverty reduction in China.

Second, mobilization of social actors is underlined. The Chinese is a nation that values charity and warm heart, especially for the poor and the weak. Advocated and led by the government, all social forces including democratic parties, social groups, NGOs, private sectors and volunteers took an active part in national poverty reduction. The spotted support project initiated by central and local government offices, the counterpart support system between the East and the lagging West, the Intellectual Poverty Reduction Project launched by democratic parties, the Project of Hope organized by the League of Youth to help with school enrollment for poor children, the Project of Women pushed by All China Women's Federation to encourage poor women's role in local development, the Glory Project involving many private sectors, the Project of Angel advocated by China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation and many others of the same kind were all carried on in various forms with encouraging results. These efforts turned out to be not only a boost for economy but also a stimulus to sense of social responsibility.

Third, international exchange and collaboration in poverty reduction field were strengthened. For years Chinese government was actively involved in exchange and collaboration with UNDP, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and other international organizations, bilateral donors and NGOs. These activities have added to existing resources for poverty reduction in China and facilitated China's efforts to learn from world experience and update its performance in poverty reduction.

With the worldly – applauded accomplishment of poverty reduction, China remains a low – income country with imbalance between the urban and rural and between different areas. The challenge of poverty reduction is by no means less daunting. By the end of 2005, 23.65 million Chinese poor were trapped in poverty plus 40.67 million Chinese

poor having their welfare at risk. Looking by area, the number of urban residents whose income is below the subsistence line stood at 20 million and the number of the disabled was 60 million. It takes every bit of hard work for China to finally attain its goal of eradication of poverty and common wealth.

It is the most critical period for China to build a well - off society, speed up modernization, establish new socialist villages and accelerate poverty reduction, which may span from now to sometime in the futureareas. We will center on human needs to seek for all - round, coordinated and sustainable development. We will keep the issue of agriculture, farmer and rural areas on top of government agenda. We will balance the development of rural and urban areas. We will abide by the guidelines of manufacturing feeding back agriculture and addressing the remaining poverty with more input and better conditions. China will contribute to world peace by its persevere actions to reduce poverty and to maintain peaceful development. A country home to about 1.3 billion population would evidence its commitment to worldwide poverty reduction campaign by just removing poverty in its territory.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends:

Additional to its strives to reduce domestic poverty, China has never been less active in reducing worldwide poverty. At the Shanghai Global Conference on Scaling Up Poverty Reduction in 2004, Chinese government made a solemn commitment to the world that China would try its utmost to push south – south collaboration and increase aid to poor countries up to its capability. As one of the important results of the conference, Chinese government and UNDP established the International Poverty Reduction Center in China in May 2005 which was located in Beijing. Chinese government is backing up the center to be an important platform for exchange and collaboration on poverty reduction for the international community, especially for the Asian Region. Chinese government will make full use of the platform to development exchange and collaboration with developing countries on poverty reduction and deliver trainings on poverty reduction to government officials of those countries who are engaged in poverty reduction. I am convinced that with your support and help, the center will for sure make its contribution to poverty reduction in Asia and further in the whole world.