

**Building a Sustainable City**  
**— At Sustainable Development Forum: China and Australia**

Address by Mr. Li Jun  
Deputy Mayor of Changsha Municipal People's Government  
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Respectable Minister Craig Emerson,  
Secretary Richard Marles,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good afternoon!

I'm very delighted to gather together with you in Changsha, to have a discussion on clean technology and environment development cooperation, which will definitely open a new milestone for the exchanges and cooperation between us. First of all, on behalf of Changsha Municipal People's Government and 7 million Changsha citizens, please allow me to express a sincere welcome to all guests present.

To realize sustainable urban development is an inevitable choice for the progress of human civilization. In 1980, the International Union for Conservation of Natural Resources raised an opinion in the Outline of World Nature Resources Conservation, which suggests that people should correctly manage the relationship of nature, society, ecology and economy, to ensure the sustainable development. With the acceleration of urbanization, increasing and highly centralized urban population, the problems of urban resource consumption, industrial isomorphism, environmental pollution and ecological destruction are becoming more and more serious, to seek sustainable urban development has become a global trend and consensus among world city managers.

Located in central south of China, Changsha is the capital city of Hunan province with a total area of 11,800 square kilometers. With over 3,000-year-history, Changsha is a famous cultural city as well as a beautiful tourist city and an opening-up city, which attracts nearly 50 million tourists from home and abroad every year. Its total supply and demand and general strength are ranking 7th among all the provincial capitals nationwide. In 2010, the city has been rated as one of China's (mainland) Top Ten Cities with Best International City Image, The Best International Cultural City with Distinguished Chinese Characteristics that are worthiest to be recommended to the world by Embassies to China.

In recent years, availing the construction of resource-saving and environment-friendly society as an opportunity, we are dedicated to build Changsha into a capital for start-ups with international scope, a livable city and a happy homeland which its people taking pride in. We explore on resource conservation, environmental protection, scientific and technological innovation, industrial development and social management, advance the development pattern, and the

city has gradually entered into its orbit of sustainable development.

**Firstly, we insist on ecology first.** Urban development, in its nature, is a process of resource transformation, while many kinds of resources are limited and nonrenewable. Only by following the principle of conserving resources, protecting environment and increasing social harmony, can we make the city on the way of achieving comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development. Based on the practical situation of Changsha's resources, we insist on the strategy of city plan guiding the urban development to improving the spatial structure, working out scientific industrial development plan to avoid repetitive construction and waste of resources, and reducing industrial homogeneous competition to improve the resource utilization rate. At present, 100% urban areas and townships as well as 75% villages of Changsha are under planning coverage. We are striving to protect hills and rivers and ecological environment, adhering to the principle of "no destroying hills, no damaging water balance, and no cutting down trees". Since July 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, we took the lead in the whole country with abolishing the free issue of teeth brush, teeth paste, soap, comb, slipper, shower cap and shaver of "seven small disposables" to guests, which has greatly reduced material consumption as well as the second pollution. In 2010, we launched a project of rebuilding the intelligent and electricity-saving systems for hotel rooms, which can reduce 50 million kilowatt per year, equaling to 18,500 tons of standard coal and a reduction of 4 million tons of carbon dioxide emission per year.

**Secondly, we strengthen environmental protection.** The construction of human settlement is the core and soul of urban development **and** building a livable city full of glamour and appeal is our dream. In 2008, we began to carry out the 'Action Plan of Three-year Environmental Protection', focusing on implementing 369 key projects of environmental infrastructure construction and ecological protection. We have successively started the reconstruction of shantytowns and old communities, built over 30 community parks, and newly increased 174 hectares of green lands. The rate of good air quality stays at above 92%, the water quality in main function zones reaches class 3, and hazard-free treatment rate of the life garbage is 100%. We have basically achieved the overall garbage collection and treatment of all rural areas, and effectively controlled the scale breeding pollution and big pollution sources, which have made the city rated as a national demonstration city for rural eco-environmental protection. We have successively close down 135 backward production enterprises, and resolutely put an end to the introduction of the high energy-consuming, high-pollution enterprises to Changsha. In order to promote the coordinated development of economic development and environmental protection, we published the 'Opinions on the Policies Implementation of Economic Environment', applying economic measures including price, taxation, credit and loans to regulate the market subject behaviors.

**Thirdly, we develop resource-saving and environment-friendly industry.**

Sustainable development of cities must be upheld by a healthy industrial system. We stick to taking industrial parks as carriers, through providing preferential policies, excellent services and preferable facilities to guide the agglomeration and development of industries and enterprises. On one hand, we conduct high-end transformation of traditional industries to improve the core competitiveness of enterprises and products. Currently, Changsha has formed six industrial clusters, including engineering machinery, automobile and parts manufacturing, electronic information, Chinese patent drugs and biomedicine, new materials and home appliances. Engineering machinery industry is the first industrial cluster in Hunan with an output volume over 100 billion Yuan. On the other hand, we cultivate strategic emerging industries, introduce strategic investors, strengthen market cultivation, and initially formed 7 strategic emerging industries, namely high-end manufacturing, new materials, new energy and energy-efficient and environment protection industry, new-energy automobile, bio-industry, cultural creative industry and information network. BYD new-energy electric bus has been officially put into mass production; our green building industry, represented by Broad Housing Industrial Group, has reached world-leading standard.

**Fourthly, we highlight scientific and technological innovation.** Scientific and technological innovation is the core engine for urban sustainable development. Only by occupying the commanding height via scientific and technological progress, can we improve a city's competitiveness. We implement the mechanism of industry-university-academy-investment to promote innovation, provide funds for strategic emerging industries, scientific and technological outcome transformation, and industry-university-academy cooperation, and set up a market-oriented and enterprise-centered innovation system. In 2010, the total production volume of high-tech industry exceeded 200 billion Yuan. We initiated the overseas top-level elite's introduction plan and three-year action plan for introducing 10,000 excellent youth talents, attracted a large group of talented people to work in Changsha. We also made efforts to popularize of new technologies, established subsidizing mechanism to encourage enterprises and urban-rural residents to use clean technology and energy efficient, environmental friendly products.

**Fifthly, persisting to improve people's livelihood.** UN-Habitat emphasized in the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements that: "Our cities must be places where human beings lead fulfilling lives in dignity, good health, safety, happiness and hope." Creating better life has always been the primary principle of our decision-making, construction and administration process. Every resident should share the achievements of the city's progress. To achieve that goal, we further increase employment by encouraging start-ups and make sure every citizen has an opportunity to work, fully implement basic medical and endowment insurance system of urban-rural residents, further improve insurance of urban & rural low-income families, and provide monthly pension to people over 60 years old. We fully achieve free and compulsory education in urban and rural areas, open city

parks to the public for free charge, improve housing security system, and over 100,000 low-and-medium income families have moved into new houses. We vigorously promote the delicacy management of the city, increase capital use efficiency, and use limited financial resources to create more benefits. We highlight meticulous management of the city, and make every single measure glow with humanity and humane care, like the special sidewalks and bus station boards built for the blind.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To build a low-carbon society and sustainable city remains our common pursuit. Australia is the first country in the world to start imposing tax on carbon emission. Your advanced clean technologies and environment-protection measures are worth our learning. Changsha and Australia have established firm friendship and pleasant partnership, Broad cooperation spatial are waiting ahead of us. We sincerely hope to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with Australia in urban construction, energy-saving technologies, environment protection and other fields, and to construct vibrant, dynamic and sustainable cities together via our joint efforts.

In closing, I wish the Forum a complete success. Thank you.