

## **Environmental Industry Development and International Cooperation in Hunan**

5 August 2011, Changsha

Mr Wang Huilong, Deputy Director-General of Hunan Provincial Environment Protection Bureau.

Your Excellency Minister Emerson, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to Hunan. First of all, on behalf of the Hunan Provincial Environmental Protection Bureau, I would like to welcome this Australian business mission led by Minister Emerson. I would also like to take this opportunity to brief you on the development of environmental industry in Hunan Province, and hope to have future cooperation with you.

Our provincial government pays great attention to the development of environment industry. We have stipulated a number of strategic policies including the provincial development plan on environment industry for the next five years, and a special strategic plan for emerging and new industries, in particular the environment industry. The provincial government has also set up a steering committee to coordinate the important issues on the development of the environment industry. We have also carried out favourable land policies and statistics system to ensure the healthy development of the environment industry.

Hunan has laid a solid foundation for the environment industry. In 2010, the total industry output reached RMB 50 billion. We have established full-fledged product and service systems for sectors such as water pollution prevention, air pollution prevention and disposal of solid waste. Actually, Hunan's speciality in machinery and electronics industries help a lot the development of the environment industry in the province.

Since last year, the provincial government has approved the establishment of 3 dedicated environment industrial zones, including the "Hunan Environment Industry Demonstration Park", "Xiangtan Jiu Hua Environment Equipment Manufacturing Base", and "Zhuzhou Qingshitang Environment Equipment Manufacturing Base". So far, we have successfully attracted a number of well-known Chinese and international companies, such as the Suez Group and SunTech Group, to reside in these industrial parks.

Hunan is strategically located in China, and is abundant with resources. The province is connecting the Pearl River Delta and the Yangtze River Delta, the two most developed regions in China. We are also linking the developed coastal provinces with the developing hinterland of China. We have well-developed infrastructure and transportation networks. We are leading the country in terms of existing and constructing highways. We have the largest airport in central China. Hunan is rich in mineral resources. Among the 160 types of known mineral resources, Hunan has 141 types, and 91 proven reserves. We are leading China in a number of mineral resources in this area.

The government is also providing good services to the environment industry. Such services includes efficient market supervision by certification and recognition; good market intelligence and consultation by which government policies and market information can be easily released to companies via Internet and printed media. We

are also proactively collect useful information on the industrial trend and companies' demands on new technologies, and act as middle-man to match these demands with suppliers.

Environment industry has great market potential in Hunan. In addition to the reduction of main pollution, which is a nation-wide issue in China, Hunan has two more specific issues. We are building a "resources-effective and environmental-friendly" society. Environment industry, by providing products, technologies and services, will play a key role in helping us achieve this objective. Furthermore, we are also facing a big issue of preventing heavy metal pollution. In Feb this year, the State Council, in the 12th Five-Year Plan for the Prevention of Heavy Metal Pollution, appoint Hunan as one of the key provinces for this task. Therefore, we are in great demand for both investment and technologies and equipment.

We have great international cooperation in environment industry. In the recent years, we have conducted joint programs with foreign countries such as Norway, Italy and Japan, and work closely with international organizations, in the fields of biodiversity protection, Ozone Depleting Substances reduction, waste air and water treatment, training, etc. and have achieved outstanding outcomes.

Ladies and gentlemen, Hunan has great potential in working with Australia for developing environment industry. Since last year, the Australian Trade Commission and the Australian Embassy in China have introduced a number of Australian environment companies to visit Hunan and held useful discussions with our companies. We understand that Australia is very strong in sectors such as mining, metallurgy, prevention of heavy metal pollution, environment consulting, etc. I believe, with stronger bilateral cooperation between governments, companies and through projects, we will achieve fruitful results.

Thank you.