

Speech at China-Europe Water Platform High-Level Dialogue Meeting

H.E. Mr. Chen Lei

Minister of Water Resources, P. R. China

(September 24, 2012)

Your Excellency Ms. Auken,
Honorable Ministers, Ambassadors,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we are most delighted to gather here for the China-Europe Water Platform High-level Dialogue Meeting, discuss future work program of CEWP and seek solutions for pushing forward policy exchange, scientific and technological cooperation and creating more business opportunities. First, on behalf of the Ministry of Water Resources, P. R. China, I would like to extend my most sincere welcome to every delegate present here, and express my heartfelt thanks to guests and colleagues from EU Member Countries for your long-term care and support to the cause of water management in China.

In the present day, many countries are faced with the increasing impacts of climate change and a higher frequency of extreme weather events. The situation of water scarcity, water pollution and water eco-environment degradation is on a worsening trend by the days, posing severe challenges to the safety of people's life and property. It calls for a global partnership to deal with these challenges. The Chinese

government has always attached great importance to water management and has made remarkable achievements in the allocation, development, utilization, conservation, protection and management of water resources. All these efforts have ensured the healthy and rapid socio-economic development. However, China has always been faced with complicated water conditions and grim water-related challenges. Therefore, the Chinese government will double its efforts in further strengthening water resources management, in light of the overall socio-economic situation.

In 2011, the Chinese government explicitly stated that it will practice the strictest water resources management system as a strategic measure for speeding up the transformation of economic development pattern and focus on the building of a water-saving society as an important driver for energy-saving and environmentally-friendly development. In January 2012, the State Council of China issued *Opinions on Implementing the Strictest Water Resources Management System* and made a holistic arrangement for the implementation of the system. We have never before witnessed such frequency and intensity in the release of water policies by the highest level of government. It fully demonstrates the firm resolution of the Chinese government in addressing water-related issues.

China and Europe enjoy a long and fruitful cooperative relationship in the field of water resources. The Ministry of Water Resources has always regarded European water administrations as important international cooperation partners, and entered into bilateral cooperation agreements or MoUs with 18 water management agencies in European countries. The valuable experience accumulated and developed by European countries in terms of ensuring water security, water disasters prevention and management as well as the harmony between human and nature

has offered important inspirations for China's water development. Since the 11th Five Year Plan Period, the Ministry of Water Resources has introduced 12.5 million Euro worth of cutting-edge equipment and advanced software from more than 10 European countries including Germany, Denmark, UK, the Netherlands, etc, which has benefited China's water sector and improved S&T innovation capability of China's research institutes. In particular, the successful implementation of China-EU River Basin Management Programme has tremendously promoted policy dialogue, technological exchanges and mutually beneficial cooperation between China and European river basin institutions and elevated the bilateral cooperation in the field of water resources to a new height.

During the 6th World Water Forum held in March this year, EU and the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China co-hosted the Dialogue Meeting on Water Resources Management. Ms. Auken and myself signed the Joint Statement on the Establishment of China-Europe Water Platform. Ms. Assunção Cristas, Minister of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning of Portugal, shared with us her vision for the future of CEWP. According to the Joint Statement, China and Europe has established CEWP under the framework of EU Water Initiative, following the principle of mutual trust, benefit and reciprocity. Since then, our two sides have each set up a Secretariat with appropriate staff selected, and held a series of consultations on such matters as members of the Joint Steering Committee, the three-year Work Programme, annual work plans and annual meetings. During today's meeting, we will sign the 2012-2015 CEWP Work Programme, which clarifies the main tasks and objectives of CEWP in the next three years,

with a vision to further promote China-Europe water policy dialogue, encourage scientific research institutions to carry out joint research and facilitate business cooperation among enterprises of China and Europe.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Press Communiqu released after the 14th China-Europe Leader Summit proposed that various mutual dialogue mechanisms should be improved. It highlighted the desirability of enhanced cooperation and exchange in the field of water resources. The 15th China-Europe Leader Summit concluded recently listed water resources as one of the key areas for future China-European cooperation. All these points to a bright prospect for China-European water cooperation. I firmly believe that more governmental agencies, research institutes and business entities will take advantage of CEWP, which is maturing by the days, and thereby deepening China-European communication, broadening the scope of cooperation, bringing about mutual benefits and contributing to a further blossom of the overall China-Europe strategic partnership.

Finally, I would like to wish this Dialogue Meeting a complete success and wish all of you a very pleasant stay in China!

Thank you.

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在中欧水资源交流平台 高层对话会上的致辞

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中华人民共和国水利部部长 陈雷

H.E. Mr. Chen Lei, Minister of Water Resources, P. R. China

中国郑州 2012年9月24日
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中华人民共和国水利部部长 陈雷

(2012年9月24日)

尊敬的伊达 奥肯女士，
各位部长，大使，各位来宾，
女士们、先生们：

今天，我们高兴地迎来了中欧水资源交流平台高层对话会，就中欧水资源交流平台未来工作进行研讨，并就推动中欧在政策交流、科技合作、商机拓展等方面共同研讨对策。首先，我代表中华人民共和国水利部，向出席本次会议的各位来宾表示热烈的欢迎！向长期以来关心和支持中国水利事业的欧洲各成员国水利同行及嘉宾表示衷心的感谢！

当前，全球气候变化影响加大，极端天气情况频发多发，水资源短缺、水污染严重、水生态环境恶化等问题日趋严峻，对人民生命财产安全、世界经济复苏以及粮食安全带来严峻挑战，需要全世界共同努力应对。中国政府历来高度重视水资源工作，推动水资源配置、开发、利用、节约、保护和管理等工作取得

了巨大成就，有力地保障了经济社会持续平稳发展。但是，中国水情复杂，水资源问题十分突出。中国政府从经济社会发展全局出发，对加强水资源管理作出重大决策部署。2011年中国政府明确提出，把严格水资源管理作为加快转变经济发展方式的战略举措，把建设节水型社会作为建设资源节约型、环境友好型社会的重要内容。今年1月，中国政府出台了关于实行最严格水资源管理制度的意见，对实行最严格水资源管理制度作出全面部署。这一系列政策举措出台频次之密、层次之高、力度之大前所未有，充分体现了中国政府解决水资源问题的坚定决心。

中欧在水资源领域的合作源远流长、成果丰硕。中国水利部将欧洲水管理机构视为重要的国际合作伙伴，与18个欧洲国家水资源主管部门签署了双边合作协议或备忘录。欧洲国家在保障水资源安全、防治水害、建设人水和谐环境等方面积累的宝贵经验，为中国水利改革发展和治水实践探索提供了有益的启示。

“十一五”以来，中国水利部从德国、丹麦、英国、法国、荷兰等十多个欧洲国家先后引入价值近1250万欧元的水利高新仪器设备和先进软件，提高了中国水利装备水平，增强了中国水利科技创新能力。特别是中欧流域综合管理项目的成功实施，推动了中欧流域机构之间的政策对话、技术交流与互惠合作，将双方在水资源领域的合作提升到新的高度。

今年3月，在第六届世界水论坛上，中国水利部与欧盟共同主办了中欧水资源管理对话会，我和奥肯女士共同签署了《关于建立中欧水资源交流平台的联合声明》，葡萄牙环境部长克里斯塔斯女士也对中欧水平台进行了展望。根据联合声明，中欧双方以欧盟水计划为基础，在互信互惠互利基础上建立了中欧水资源交流平台。双方已分别成立了秘书处，选配了相应的工作人员，并就联合指导委员会组成、三年工作计划、年度工作计划、年度会议等内容进行了多次磋商。这次对话会上，双方还将签署《2012-2015年中欧水资源交流平台工作计划》，明确未来三年中欧在水资源领域合作的主要目标和重点任务，进一步推动中欧在水资源领域开展政策对话，促进双方科研机构开展合作研究，鼓励双方企业开展商业合作。

女士们，先生们！

今年2月第14次中欧领导人会晤后发表的新闻公报，提出要
加强双方各种对话机制，强调要加强水资源领域的交流与合作，
刚刚结束的中欧领导人第十五次会议将水资源列为中欧未来合作
的重点领域之一，这些都充分展示了中欧水资源合作的重要意义
和良好前景。我相信，随着中欧水资源交流平台的运行，一定能
够吸引更多的政府部门、科研机构和企业参与进来，推动中欧双
方不断加深交流沟通，不断拓宽合作领域，不断结出互惠成果，

为进一步推进中欧全面战略伙伴关系做出更大贡献。

最后，预祝对话会取得圆满成功，祝愿各位嘉宾在华期间度过一段美好而愉快的时光。

谢谢大家！