

Plenary Session A:
Opening Ministerial Segment
Thursday, 3 June, 9.00 – 12.00 h
Venue: Plenary Hall IKBB

Internationale Konferenz
für Erneuerbare Energien, Bonn
International Conference
for Renewable Energies, Bonn



VOICES FROM THE REGIONS

Zhang Guobao

Vice-Chairman, National Development and Reform Commission, China

Thank you Chair person, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, please allow me on behalf of the Chinese Government to express heartfelt appreciation to the German Government, who advocated holding the 2004 World Renewable Energy Meeting, for their fine preparation and meticulous arrangements for this meeting, and offer our congratulations on its successful convening and excellent achievements.

A stable, dependable and clean energy supply is a guarantee of human civilization, economic development and the progress of society. Fossil fuels, such as coal, petroleum, and natural gas have supported human civilization's advancement for about 200 years throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. With its high consumption of coal, petroleum, natural gas and other fossil fuels, however, humankind not only faces pressures stemming from resource depletion, but also those resulting from environment degradation. Renewable energy is the ultimate way to solve the problems of energy resources and environment faced by humankind at present. This meeting will be a significant landmark in the development of world energy resources. It indicates that, all over the world, serious consideration is beginning to be given to the issue of how to achieve the transition from fossil fuels to sustainable renewable energies. Thus, a new era, in which humankind will rid itself of fossil fuels is being inaugurated. We are glad to see that governments and people of all countries and all relevant international organizations and energy resources institutions highly value the exploitation and utilization of the renewable energy. We are also glad to see that many nations have implemented relevant laws and policies for promoting renewable energy development; put forward definite targets for renewable energy development; set up special funds to support technical studies, innovation work, and

utilization of renewable energy; and have mobilized their entire populace to promote the development and application of renewable energy. Europe, especially Germany, has achieved gratifying success in the development and application of renewable energy and has accumulated rich experience, which sets a good example for world renewable energy development.

The Chinese Government highly values the development and application of renewable energy. From the 1980s, the Chinese Government has implemented its Rural Energy Building Program, aimed at providing electricity for basic needs in rural areas; its Rural Electrification Program, focused on small hydro power; its Brightness Program and Township Electrification Program, both aimed at providing electricity for basic needs in remote areas; and its Riding the Wind Program and Pilot Concession Program, both aimed at promoting wind power development. Through these programs, many positive achievements have been obtained. By the end of 2003, total small hydro power capacity in China reached 30,000 MW, wind power capacity reached 560 MW, and electric power generation fuelled by biomass reached 2,000 MW. Also by the end of 2003, more than 10 million rural household biogas digesters and more than 2000 medium or large biogas digesters with total annual production of 4 billion cubic meters of biogas had been set up in China. Installation of solar water heaters reached more than 50 million square meters and total installed capacity of PV systems was more than 50 MW. At the same time, the Chinese Government has also been paying attention to the development and application of other renewable energies, such as geothermal energy and tidal power. After many years of work, China has a good base to conduct research on and popularize renewable energy technologies. The nation has developed a relatively complete system for supporting renewable energy technology and equipment manufacturing capability and has established a good foundation for the large-scale development and application of the renewable energy.

The Township Electrification Program is the first program on such a large scale to be conducted by the Chinese Government with the purpose of providing electricity to unelectrified rural areas by means of stand-alone renewable energy power systems. It represents a turning point from experiments and pilots to real implementation and successful provision of electricity to more than 1 million people in more than 1,000 villages and towns. On the basis of the experiences gained from the Township Electrification Program, China will focus on the use of renewable energy technology to achieve the goals of our "Village Electrification Program" and "Household Electrification Program", which represent efforts to provide electricity to more than 30 million people currently without access to electricity by the year 2020.

The Wind Power Concession Program currently implemented by the Chinese Government chooses investors via tender on the basis of certain conditions stipulated by the government. It introduces competitive mechanisms to both the construction and management of wind farms, demonstrating an important practice which combines government incentives with market mechanisms to promote the development of the renewable energy. This combination is very suitable for the actual situation of renewable energy development in China and is speeding up the development of wind power and promoting competition in the wind power market. We will continue to expand the scale of wind power development on the basis of experience gained. At present, three Wind Power Concession Program projects, each with a capacity of 100 MW, are inviting public bidding. At the same time, preparation work for a national wind resource assessment and wind farm site selection program is in progress. By 2006, we will have completed pre-feasibility studies for about 30 large wind farms, so that the sites will be qualified for concession tendering. In this way, we will further enlarge the scale of installed wind capacity in China and try to realize our goal of setting up a total wind power capacity of 20 GW by the year 2020.

In order to accelerate the development and application of renewable energy, China is setting about formulating the *China Renewable Energy Development and Utilization Promotion Law* and working out our 2020 strategic programming for the development and application of renewable energy, which will be included in the strategic programming for the whole country's economic development. The aim of these measures is to nail down our strategic goals for renewable energy development, eliminate market barriers to the development of renewable energy, establish incentive measures which will ensure the development of renewable energy, and build a social and cultural atmosphere supportive of renewable energy. In this way, the commercial and scalable development of renewable energy will be achieved.

In general, renewable energy technology is still being developed and perfected. Costs of development and application are still relatively expensive. The developed countries have advanced technology and economic strength, which are needed in the development and application of the renewable energy. They should take the lead in the development and application of renewable energy and actively help developing countries boost up their abilities in the these areas, especially in the areas of financial and technical assistance and technology transfer; in helping developing countries improve local manufacturing capabilities for renewable energy equipment including wind turbines and solar PV equipment; and in creating conditions that will bring down costs and expand the development and application

scale of renewable energy in developing countries. Although the Chinese Government has obtained experiences from some international cooperation projects in the development and application of renewable energy, we look forward to more extensive international cooperation in this field, especially assistance and support from the developed countries. We hope to promote the commercial and scalable development of renewable energy in order to realize the common progress of the entire human race and to promote the sustainable development of society together with all countries all over the world.

Thank you!