

14 May 2008

Ambassador Mei Ping
Chair, CNCPEC
China Institute of International Studies
3 Toutiao Taijichang
Beijing, China 100005

Dear Ambassador Mei,

On behalf of all PECC members I am writing to offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to the people affected by the earthquake that struck Sichuan province last Monday.

As we strive to build a regional community based on mutual understanding and respect, tragic events like this remind us that what we share most in common is our vulnerability to the forces of nature. By virtue of its geology and dense population base, the Asia-Pacific region has a special vulnerability to natural disasters and a strong incentive to cooperate together in building disaster resilient communities, and in mitigating suffering when disasters occur.

While our work in PECC is on policy development, our common vision of a regional community is ultimately to foster an environment in which all our people can thrive and prosper. As we watch events unfold in Sichuan province and understand the challenges that the people face, I believe that this can strengthen our resolve to work together for a better future.

Once again, on behalf of all the members of the international PECC community, please convey the sympathy and condolences to the people of Sichuan Province through Mr. Li Changchun, Sichuan Provincial Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation

Best regards,



Charles E. Morrison
PECC Chair