

Speech at the 16th General Meeting of PECC in Seoul

by He Xiansong

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Distinguished PECC friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon!

In October 1999, at the Manila meeting of PECC, Jiangmen of Guangdong Province, PRC was approved as one of the two pilot cities for implementing APEC-PECC RISE (Regional Integration of Sustainable Economies) program. Today I feel greatly honored to attend the 16th General Meeting of PECC on behalf of Jiangmen and to give you a brief account of Jiangmen and its progress in the implementation of RISE.

Located in the Pearl River Delta and adjacent to Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macau, Jiangmen has an advantageous geographical position. It covers a land area of nearly 10,000 square kilometers and a maritime area of 30,000 square kilometers, with a population of 3.95 million. Environmentally friendly, Jiangmen has been designated as an "Excellent National Tourist City", "National Model City of Environmental Protection", "National Garden City", "National Hygienic City", and a "National Pilot City for Information Technology". Jiangmen is also a famous homeland of numerous overseas Chinese. There are 3.68 million overseas Chinese who have their origin in the five county-level cities of Jiangmen. In 2004, its GDP exceeded 10 billion US dollars, its per capita GDP being over 2,600 US dollars. We are grateful to APEC and PECC for selecting Jiangmen as a region for implementing the RISE plan.

The following is a brief account of the progress in Jiangmen's "RISE plan".

I. Make Jiangmen better known to the world

The implementation of RISE enabled Jiangmen to participate in the 13th and 15th General Meetings of PEEC, and the second China-ASEAN Entrepreneurs' dialogue, etc. Large international conferences were held in Jiangmen under the auspices of the RISE Executive Committee, China PECC and the World Bank. In the 2003 World Bank's report of *"Improving City Competitiveness through the Investment Climate: Ranking 23 Chinese Cities"*, Jiangmen was rated A in comprehensive investment climate. In July 2004, the Mayor of Jiangmen delivered a speech at a meeting of the World Bank in Washington D.C. Under the name of RISE, Jiangmen has become better known to the world.

II. Carry out concrete projects and accelerate the building of agricultural and food processing system

Over the years, we have increased our contacts with such companies as Cargill, IBM, Satake and DCH (Dah Chong Hong, Ltd.) of Hongkong. These international corporations have intended to invest in our agricultural sector, including the sale of ostrich meat, the preserving and processing of sweet peas, animal feed and the processing of rice. DCH has set up a food manufacturing and processing center in our city. The center will develop into an industrial park and logistics center.

III. Upgrade the development of small towns in rural areas and the planning level of urbanization

We have carried out the modernization of the public infrastructure of our small towns in a planned way and improved our agricultural system extending from production to marketing. There have emerged a number of towns specializing in motorcycles manufacturing, textile & clothing, metal products, electroacoustic equipment, plumbing and toilet equipment, foodstuffs and papermaking, providing jobs for the rural population and raising their income. We have also been dedicated to city planning and improving our transportation network, so as to build up a national Class-A port.

IV. Build Jiangmen into a region of high information technology.

Jiangmen is a base of electronic information of China and a pilot city in Guangdong Province for IT-driven manufacturing. Jiangmen is covered by telecommunication networks. Computer networks have been widely applied to various sectors in our economy and society. The five Es (E-government, E-commerce, E-education, E-finance and E-community) have achieved notable results. The Online Administration of Jiangmen municipal government won second place in an evaluation of China's prefecture-level cities' websites. By the end of 2004, our city had 496,600 internet users. Inspired by the RISE project, Jiangmen had the honor to be designated as one of the eight pilot IT cities by the Ministry of Information Industry.

Since Jiangmen became the first pilot city for RISE project, we have never stopped the implementation. We are very grateful to APEC and PECC for their assistance, and we hope that APEC and PECC will continue to show consideration to Jiangmen, so as to continue the RISE project and build Jiangmen into a model for sustainable development. We also hope that our information network can be linked to the official website of APEC and PECC, so as to attract more attention from government officials, scholars and entrepreneurs throughout the economies.

Finally, I sincerely invite you to visit Jiangmen at a convenient time and invest in Jiangmen in a joint effort to create a brighter future.

Thank you.