

Address by HE Ji Peiding
President of Association of Former Diplomats of China
And Former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs
(Beijing, December 6, 2012)

Distinguished guests,
Dear friends, ladies and gentlemen,

I take great pleasure in joining you at this gathering of renowned economists, scholars and experts for the study of regional economic integration and global economics. First, let me congratulate China National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation for hosting this important forum on TPP, the Progress and Challenges. I wish your forum a great success.

Our Asia Pacific region has witnessed profound changes since the inception of APEC. Regional cooperative regimes have sprung up like mushrooms. Today, we have APEC, ASEAN+1, ASEAN+3, East Asia Summit, and now RCEP, etc. Since the Obama administration announced participating in TPP negotiation in Nov. 2009, intensive talks have been going on for the last two years. China is open to all discussions on constructive regimes to promote regional economic integration, including TPP. I believe your deliberations are going to be enlightening and useful and shall provide a good insight to all those concerned, both supporters and opponents. I am sure that we are going to benefit from your discussions.

We are gathered here today when the 18th CPC National Congress has been concluded not long ago. It is a most important meeting at a time when China has entered the decisive stage of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects. The underlying theme of the Congress is to hold high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics, follow the guidance of Deng Xiaoping Theory, the important thought of Three Represents and the Scientific Outlook on Development, free up our mind, implement the policy of reform and opening

up, overcome all difficulties, and firmly march on the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The world today is undergoing profound and complex changes, but peace and development remain the underlying trends of our times. The global trends toward multi-polarity and economic globalization are further deepening. Global cooperation is fast moving forward on all fronts. Emerging economies and developing countries are gaining in overall strength, tipping the balance of international forces in favor of the maintenance of world peace. All this has created more favorable conditions for ensuring general peace and stability in the world today.

Now what China has done in the past decade in promoting global peace and contributing to global development? While maintaining its own political and economic stability, China has made the following major contributions.

First, China has vigorously helped promote world economic development. In the past decade, while maintaining its high economic growth at home, China has contributed 20% of the world's annual economic growth. Since the outbreak of the world financial crisis, China has offered a capital increase of 93 billion US dollars to IMF, thus becoming an important power in promoting world economic recovery. China is also an active member of the South-South cooperation, and has offered 170 billion RMB of aid to the developing economies.

Second, China has made great efforts to maintain world peace and stability. China has insisted in finding a peaceful solution to international disputes, actively participated in dialogues and cooperation on international security and vigorously advocated mutual-trust, mutual benefit, and mutual coordination in settling regional hot issues. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, PLA has so far dispatched over 20,000 officers and men for 15 peace-keeping missions all over the world, whose efforts are highly acclaimed by the international community.

Third, China has worked for an all-round relation of friendship and cooperation with countries in the world. China-US relations of cooperative partnership are going on steadily, with our two-way trade reaching 447 billion US dollars. China-Russia relations of all-round strategic partnership have made a big headway with an annual trade growth over 30%. China has actively supported the efforts by EU to overcome the sovereign debt crisis. And the relations of mutual trust between China and its neighbours have also been further strengthened. China has also strengthened its relations with BRICS countries and consolidated its solidarity and cooperation with the vast number of developing countries, including Africa and the Arabic world. The Association of Former Diplomats of China, of which I am the President, also successfully conducted the Third Roundtable Conference on China-Africa Cooperation last month in Hainan Province with the participation of politicians, officials, ambassadors, and academicians from over 40 African countries. The conference adopted the Wanning Declaration to further advance China-Africa relations of friendship and cooperation.

Fourth, China has vigorously upheld international equality and justice. China supports the UN to play a greater role in line with the principles and purposes of the UN Charter. China has also worked for greater democracy in international relations and for maintaining the rights and interests of the developing countries. China has supported G-20 as an important platform for global economic governance so as to bring about a fair and rational new economic order.

Fifth, China has fully engaged in coping with global challenges. China successfully combated SARS and H1N1, actively involved itself with climate change, food and energy security, and international cooperation for disaster alleviation. Today, China is 90% self-reliant in its energy supply and has lowered energy consumption per GDP by 13%.

Sixth, China has worked to promote dialogues among world's different civilizations. China successfully hosted Beijing Olympic Games and Shanghai World Expo. China supports countries in the world to pursue its own road of development in line with the countries' realities and promote the diversity of global cultures.

In short, China shall continue to uphold world peace, development, cooperation and a win-win outcome for all countries in the world and continue to contribute its share to world peace and development.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, Asia Pacific has become the center of world with its dynamic economic growth engine driving the world economy forward. Despite the European sovereign debt crisis, US economic recession and the sluggish world market, the future for our region is most encouraging and bright so long as we strengthen our resolve, deepen our cooperation and build up mutual trust and mutual confidence. I am sure that we are able to overcome the surrounding difficulties and bring this region to the next stage of growth so long as we have confidence in our future, engage in closer cooperation and work with concerted efforts to move forward.

Dear friends, I wish to take this occasion to thank you all for your support to CNCPEC and wish you success in your deliberations tomorrow.

Thank you very much.