



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

GEOTHERMAL TRAINING PROGRAMME
Orkustofnun, Grensásvegur 9,
IS-108 Reykjavík, Iceland

30th Anniversary Workshop
August 26-27, 2008

REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. ZHANG KEYUAN AT THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNU-GTP

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Your Excellency, Mrs. Ingibjorg Solrun Gisladdottir, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, Professor Janos Bogardi, Vice Rector of the United Nations University, Dr. Ingvar B. Fridleifsson, Director of the Geothermal Training Programme of the United Nations University, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great honour for me to be invited to attend this workshop. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the United Nations University on its 30th anniversary from the establishment of the Geothermal Training Programme.

Geothermal energy utilization has a large potential, as a clean and renewable energy resource. It has made substantial contribution to the world energy supply. For 30 years, the Geothermal Training Programme has been assisting more than 40 countries in developing geothermal energy in an era when clean energy is of vital importance for environmental protection. So far, nearly 400 students have been trained and become geothermal experts in their respective countries.

Since 1979, 65 scientists and engineers from China have graduated from the Geothermal Training Programme and another 5, who are with us here today, are expected to graduate in October. Therefore, on behalf of Chinese Government, I would like to thank the Icelandic Government and the United Nations University for the long-term support of this programme, as well as all of the faculty members, whose continuous efforts have been devoted to an ultimate goal of a cleaner globe.

As most of you know, China has benefitted much from the Geothermal Training Programme, with the development of a house heating system for 400,000 people in Xianyang, a number of residents larger than the population of Iceland, and a much larger project in Tianjin. There are other projects in China, such as geothermal power plants in Tibet Autonomous Region and the Yunnan Province. China is moreover one of the largest producers of electricity from wind power in the world. In the future, electricity generated from geothermal and wind as well as other forms of renewable energy in China could account for as much as 20% of the total electricity production.

In June 2008, not long ago, my colleagues and I were honoured to be invited to a field trip with the students of the UNU-GTP. Amazed by the beauty of our Mother Nature and the unique features of Iceland, we simultaneously started to realize how much energy exists beneath the surface of the earth, which we human beings can take advantage of in a sustainable manner and benefit from. This is exactly what UNU-GTP has been conveying. On the special occasion of its 30th anniversary, I wish the school great achievements in the years to come.

Thank you all.