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Speech at the Honor Day

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Global Environment Facility**

**The GEF Honor Day
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Thank you, Honorable Vice Minister Li. Honorable officials, guests, friends, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

I am honored to celebrate with you the GEF Honor Day at the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai. Thank you very much for your participation.

Zunjing de Li buzhang, nushimen, xianshengmen, pengyoumen, xiawu hao. Wo henrongxing he nimen yiqi qizhu Quanqiu huanjing jijin rongyuri. Xiexie nimen de guanglin.

The Global Environment Facility a unique partnership that unites 182 member countries, and we work closely with international institutions, civil society, and the private sector, to make local investments that have a global impact on today's biggest environmental challenges—climate change, species loss, pollution of soil and water.

For almost two decades, the Global Environment Facility has worked very closely with our partners here in China, investing locally to spark innovations for global impact. It is through this kind of regular interactions where we build better cities for better living, which is the very theme of the Shanghai Expo.

As the world's largest public fund to protect the global environment, the GEF provides financial and technical assistance to developing countries. China is our single largest partner, and together we have an impressive track record, a history of solid results, and a promising future that will be a model for others to follow.

I do not say this lightly: let me share just a few facts to tell a story. Over the past 19 years, the GEF has funded about 100 projects in China, representing \$820 million in grant financing with another \$7 billion leveraged by the government, businesses, civil society, and other partners.

Together we have accomplished a lot, including addressing the challenge of climate change, preserving biodiversity, reducing dangerous pesticides in food and water, and protecting food security through better land management.

On the climate change front, with GEF support, China became the first developing country to demonstrate commercial operation of clean, efficient, hydrogen fuel-cell bus, first in Beijing at the Olympics and now in Shanghai at the World Expo. These demonstrations have spurred interest from both the public and the private sector to invest in low-carbon alternatives for public transportation throughout China. We will take a ride of one of these buses later on.

Outside urban centers, GEF is also making dramatic impacts in villages and towns by investing in energy efficiency solutions that keep local manufacturing plants open while slashing toxic pollution and carbon dioxide emissions, by promoting renewable energy to rural households, by improving land and water management to reduce poverty and increase climate resilience. Projects like these touch the lives of millions of people in China and contribute to China's sustainable development.

Our portfolio here is quite large, and there are a lot of stories I could tell. But the bottom line is that GEF projects in China have helped push forward

sustainable development in a meaningful way, both for local impact and global benefit.

I am very proud of our achievements in China. We have done this together with the government, with our partner agencies, with civil society, and with the private sector. As we embark on a new journey following our successful replenishment of the GEF recently, we are proud to share the vision of this Expo – to carry on traditions and to open a new vista into the future.

Thank you. Xiexie.