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Opening Remarks

**Monique Barbut, CEO and Chairperson
Global Environment Facility**

**GEF Reception at BROAD Pavilion
6:00 pm, July 19**

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Monique Barbut, and I am the CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility. Welcome to the GEF reception this evening, and welcome to participating in the GEF Honor Day tomorrow.

Nushimen, xianshenmen, wanshanghao. Wo jiao Monika Babu, shi Quanqiuhanjing Jijin zhuxi jian CEO. Huanying dajia canjia jiwang de zhaodahui, bing huanying dajia canjia mingtian de Quanqiuhanjing Jijin rongyuri.

First of all, I want to recognize the important contribution of Mr. Zhang Yue, President of BROAD Air Conditioning. BROAD not only sponsors tonight's reception; it is also an official sponsor of the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai. BROAD is well known throughout China for its air conditioners and air purification products. Relatively little do people know that BROAD has been an innovator in energy efficient, low-carbon buildings. You will witness such innovative, pioneering efforts at this BROAD Pavilion. They benefit BROAD's motto, "We Preserve Life."

At the Global Environment Facility, our motto is "Investing in Our Planet". We are 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.

We began 19 years ago, and today the GEF is the largest environment fund in the world that has invested \$9 billion in grants and leveraged \$40 billion in co-financing for more than 2,600 projects in 165 countries.

We have invested nearly \$3 billion in developing countries to promote the demonstration, deployment, and diffusion of technologies and practices related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable urban transport. Our *raison d'être* is to help developing countries make a smooth transition to a sustainable, low-carbon future. This is an imperative, not an option, for all countries.

In this regard, it is no accident that China is our single largest partner. We have invested in nearly 100 projects in China that can be found in 30 provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions. Our goal is to protect the global environment while promoting sustainable development. We work closely with the Chinese government at the national, provincial, and local levels, as well as with civil society, and the private sector.

I am very glad to see that many of our guests tonight come from the private sector, who have participated in, and contributed to, many GEF projects in China: manufacturers of energy-efficient lamps, coking, brickmaking, and cement companies. Your technologies and your products hold the key to help China and the world make the transition onto a low-carbon development path. I thank you for your contributions.

We are also proud to be a pioneer in investing in the demonstration of cutting-edge, low-carbon technologies. One of the most visible examples is

the hydrogen fuel-cell buses. They buses funded by the GEF – manufactured by the Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation – are part of the new energy, clean vehicle fleet shuttling visitors around the Expo Park. These buses are vivid examples of how cities could become greener cities, better cities, and low-carbon cities that enable better lives for their citizens.

The success of the GEF in China cannot have been achieved without the strong support of the GEF agencies. I want to take this opportunity to thank our partner agencies – the World Bank, UNDP, and UNIDO – who are represented here. I look forward to working with all of you to continue our success in China and to support China in achieving a low-carbon future.

Last but not least, I want to thank Expo officials for offering the GEF the opportunity to participate in the Expo with its Pavilion and for your strong support to the GEF in organizing the GEF Honor Day.

Ladies and gentlemen, I invite you to join me in a toast for a pleasant evening to all you and to our strong partnership and friendship. Cheers!
Ganbei!

Invite Mr. Zhang Yue to speak?

Invite WB to speak?

Invite UNDP to speak?