

The Speech on the Announcement of International Big Scientific Plan on “Resources and Environmental Effects of Global Karst Dynamic Systems” (Draft)

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Dear Mr. ZhongZiran, Mr. Li Bin, Mr. Hans and Mr. Cheng Qiuming, Distinguished colleagues, good morning.

First of all, on behalf of the Coordinating Committee for Geo-science Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the Announcement of International Big Scientific Plan on “Resources and Environmental Effects of Global Karst Dynamic Systems”. It is a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity to express my minds on karst geology and international cooperation with every guest here.

Firstly, CCOP is an inter-government organization, also the only international organization majored in geosciences in East and Southeast Asia founded in 1966. China as one of the member of CCOP, based on its advantages, scientific and technical technologies in geosciences, plays a key role in the regional

cooperation. In 2010, Dr. He Qingcheng took the position of the Director of Technical Secretariat that made the interaction between China and CCOP closely. The cooperation between IKG (Institute of Karst Geology)/ IRCK (International Research Center on Karst) has last about ten years. In March 2011, Dr. He Qingcheng lead the delegate of CCOP visited here, and signed a protocol on technical cooperation meeting with IKG as a foundation for future cooperation. As I know, the Department of Groundwater Resources and Department of Mineral Resources of Thailand, the Department of Geology of Cambodia, the Department of Environmental and Resource Management of Myanmar and other organizations from East Asia and Southeast Asia have cooperation with IRCK in different fields based on the agreement signed by both sides. Not only includes the training courses and working meeting, but also implemented amount of practical projects, like cooperative mapping of hydrogeology, environmental geology, groundwater resources and geo-environmental hazards, comparison of karst geology in Indo-China peninsula. All of the achievements reached in these cooperation, improve the geosciences development regionally, enhance the international influences of CCOP and IRCK, also solve the geological problems for residents in these areas that

make a huge contribution to the prosperity of every country.

The principle of CCOP is *To facilitate and coordinate the implementation of applied geoscience programmes in East and Southeast Asia in order to contribute to economic development and an improved quality of life within the region*, which meets the major mission of this international big scientific plan very well. In the second stage of IRCK, with the support of Chinese government, UNESCO, IUGS and geologists from all over the world, I wish we could take GLOBAL KARST international big scientific plan as an opportunity to expand our cooperation in different fields. To meet the missions of GLOBAL KARST, CCOP will coordinate related organizations in East Asia and Southeast Asia to attend it, and find a proper research field to implement cooperative research.

Karst spread widely all over the world. In East and Southeast Asia, with the development of economy and society, a scientific and sustainable way has not been figured out. Consequently, there are many geological and environmental problems are related to karst, like karst collapse, flooding and drought, water pollution. These problems are the challenges and obstacles to

the regional development, also the opportunities to make the environment better, such as the exploration and utilization of water resources, karst landscape for tourism. In these fields, we wish with the implementation of GLOBAL KARST, we could find a reasonable way not only solve these problems, but also benefits the surroundings in Asian countries and makes the residents lives better.

Today, I am glad to meet so many geologists from CCOP members like Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam here. A most of geological survey have been done in these countries. CCOP and IRCK are excellent platforms to make communication with geologists overseas. Through international cooperation projects, training courses, seminars, advanced technologies and achievements could be brought in. Meanwhile, the construction of geoinformation sharing platform is one of our major now, a regional platform is not enough to cover all the types of geology, a more closely connection with scientists from China and other countries is necessary to fulfill the blank in our disadvantages.

So, CCOP is an opening ceremony, we are happy to witness the

prosperity of IRCK and karst geology research, and willing to have cooperation with the friends throughout the world all the time.

Thank you!