

## **East Asia Summit Conference on Liveable Cities**

**Singapore, 24 June 2008**

**Presentation by Mr Zhou Tianming, Vice Mayor of Foshan, People's  
Republic of China**

Honorable Minister,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It's my greatest honor to attend the Conference being held here in Singapore. In the following, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce to you the economic and social development of Foshan City.

Foshan is situated in the center of the Economic Zone of the Pearl River Delta, one of the most dynamic economic powers in China. With a favorable geographical location, profound cultural inheritance and advanced industry and commerce, it is reputed as a famous historical and cultural city in China and the cradle of Southern Chinese Culture. Foshan covers an area of 3,848 square kilometers with a population of 5.92 million.

Over the past 30 years since China's reform and opening-up, Foshan witnessed remarkable achievements in its economic growth, with its national economy reaching a high average annual growth rate of 17.4%. In 2007, the GDP of the whole city reached 358.85 billion RMB, ranking the 11<sup>th</sup> in China.

In the process of urban development, however, we still face quite a number of problems. For example, there is an imbalanced development of regional economy, a comparatively low level of industry branding, capitalization and internationalization, and an impotence of sustainable development and international competitiveness for its industries; there is great pressure in protecting the resources environment and a heavy task of conducting energy conservation and emission reduction, environmental administration, and construction of an ecological city.

With China being at the developmental stage of accelerating its

urbanization, Foshan has defined its new orientation for future development, that is, turning the city into an advanced manufacturing base, a modern service center for production, a reputed city with typical Southern Chinese culture, and a home of great beauty and wealth. To attain this goal, we need to do the following:

**First, establishing a modern industrial system.** We will consistently follow the new mode of industrialization, adjust and optimize the industrial structure, refine the primary industry, optimize the secondary industry and develop the tertiary industry. Also, we will focus on developing the advanced manufacturing industry so as to reinforce the modernization of traditional industries and promote emerging and high and new technology industries. What's more, we will promote the modern service industry by paying special attention to the development of producer service industries such as finance, logistics, and exhibition and conventions. Meanwhile, we will adhere to the principle of promoting development through opening-up and explore ways of strengthening cooperation with such internationally advanced cities as Singapore in areas of urban planning, construction of logistics parks and industry development so as to elevate the modernization level of industries.

**Second, implementing the comprehensive administration of the environment.** We will, as a leading project, enhance the comprehensive administration of the water environment through dredging the Fenjiang River waterway in Foshan. We will speed up the construction of environmental protection infrastructural facilities so as to restore the natural ecological environment of the water body. With energy conservation and emission reduction as the focus, we will reinforce air pollution prevention and control. We will endeavor to promote the adjustment of the structures of such traditional industries as ceramics, cement, and textile. We will phase out enterprises or production processes with backward production facilities or

causing heavy pollution, and develop clean industries. We will achieve harmony between man and nature and enhance nature ecological protection and construction. We will encourage tree planting by all people in the city and promote the city landscape greening construction and turn Foshan into an ecological city which is suitable for living and working.

**Third, carrying forward “the three olds” renovation project.** By adhering to sustainable development, we will promote the transformation of “the three olds” (that is, old towns, old factory buildings and old villages) within the city. We will give priority to the transformation and protection of the city’s central district and model it in three to five years into a modern city area with the integration of Southern Chinese folk customs and cultures, and modern commercial civilization. It will be the center and landmark of the city.

**Fourth, striving to promote the city’s internationalization.** We will re-schedule the regional development distribution and industrial distribution planning and will offer guidelines to all urban districts for adjusting their industrial planning and developing their characterized industries according to their features and advantages. We will accelerate the construction of a comprehensive modern transportation system and of the urban public infrastructure by reinforcing comprehensive urban administration and by drawing upon the developmental experiences from advanced cities all over the world so as to promote the internationalization of Foshan.

**Fifth, constructing a wealthy and harmonious city.** In accelerating the economic development, we will attach greater importance to developing social enterprises such as education, culture, sanitation, sport and social security. We will do 11 practical deeds concerning the livelihood of citizens and help resolve people’s practical problems in terms of housing, education, medical care and employment so as to help them gain more benefits.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Foshan is a city with great potential and business opportunities. I'd like to invite with great sincerity all the distinguished guests and dear friends here to Foshan for tourism, business or investment. You are warmly welcome to join hands with Foshan people to promote the development of Foshan.

Lastly, I wish the 2008 East Asia Summit Conference a complete success!

Thank you!