

Dear Ms. Constance Thomas,
Dear Guests and Experts,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

For all these years, the close cooperation between the Ministry of Human Resource and Social Security and the International Labour Organisation in the various fields, like employment promotion, adjustment of labour relations, and construction of social security system, has been quite fruitful. The Green Jobs is a new project built on such successful cooperation. And today's experiences-exchanging meeting on Green Jobs is an important component of this project. In the initial stage of intensive study on Green Jobs, a new subject with worldwide implications, it is entirely necessary and meaningful to bring officials in relevant government agencies both at home and abroad, practitioners and experts at employer organizations, trade unions and enterprises and scholars in research institutes together, providing them a forum for discussion and exchanges of ideas about the definition of Green Jobs, good policies and practices for promoting Green Jobs and the accompanying difficulties and challenges, and other issues.

Although currently there is no international consensus on the definition of Green Jobs, it is generally regarded that the Green Jobs not only include jobs contributing to environment recovery and protection, but also those created by the low-carbon economy. Thus, the Green Jobs pervade industries and sectors of energy, construction, transportation, manufacture, agriculture and services, encompassing people in varieties of occupations with different skills and educational attainments. In today's world, the poverty of resources, environment deterioration and climate changes have constituted a serious threat to sustainable development of human societies, which make a common choice the overall coordinated and sustainable development of environment, economy and society. In response to the challenges of climate changes and poverty of resources, many countries are proposing Green Industries and Green Jobs as engines to rejuvenate economy and as critical moves to react to climate changes and transit to the low-carbon economy. In the transition to the low-carbon economy new opportunities will be generated for employment, in the meanwhile shocks on traditional occupations could be expected, for Green Jobs being created, jobs or industries with low energy efficiency and high energy consuming being replaced or eradicated, and the contents and requirements of traditional occupations being changed. Some groups of people and regions will benefit from these changing patterns, while others will bear certain losses, which make high issues the active promotion of employment and the protection of interests of workers.

China is a populous country with huge pressure on employment. Every year, there are more than 10 million new added labourers in urban areas looking for jobs, and over 10 million outgoing peasant labourers. The annual employment demand of non-agriculture jobs is around 30 million, whereas current development of economy could only provide 10 million new jobs. Thus, to develop economy, promote employment and improve people's

living standards are the foremost tasks for Chinese government at present and for a fairly long time to come. Like other developing countries, the basic condition of China's development is the reasonable growth of energy demand in the future. It would be a huge challenge to maintain harmony between creating more jobs, developing economy and protecting environment.

Chinese government has long attached great importance to its people's livelihood, emphasized on environment protection and employment issues. As a responsible developing country, China will no longer pursue the old development strategies of advanced country that consume big quantity of resources and energy to develop first and then curb the environment pollution. Instead, China will follow the requirement of the Scientific Concept of Development, try its best to establish a resources-saving and environment-friendly society, and take the new course of industrialization with development going hands-in-hands with environment management, hoping to contribute to the protection of global climate. China has enacted the Employment Promotion Law and Labour Contract Law, and is carrying out active employment policy, trying every possible mean to create employment opportunities for one fifth of world population and protecting the legitimate interests of workers. Transiting to the Green Economy is as a opportunity as an enormous challenge, which requires us to draw useful lessons from practices to provide input for policy-making and legislation in the purpose of promoting green and decent employment and providing employment security for all workers.

Promoting Green Jobs entails the coordination between various government agencies in the field of policy-making, the widespread participation of social partners, the recognition and active implementation on the parts of enterprises and workers, the propitious public opinions and social consciousness and strong capacity building, relevant service system, the technical support and transfer from developed countries, and the financial support from international community.

Although Green Jobs is a new concept in China, a lot of valuable practices and experiences are emerging here, which awaits our further exploration. In the meanwhile, there are good parallels in advanced countries and other developing countries. We have an old saying that, "Stones from other hills may serve to polish the jade of this one". China could benefit from the great lessons learnt from the valuable practices and experiences in advanced countries and other developing countries, and we certainly hope the same goes the other way around. This experiences-exchanging meeting on Green Jobs would be a push forward for the thriving of the Green Jobs in all countries, meanwhile will spread and intensify the ILO's advocacy of Green Jobs. Thank you all for taking part in this meeting.

Finally I wish the meeting a great success and enjoyable and healthy working in Beijing.

Thank you for your attention!